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Institute of Advanced Energy
Kyoto University

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



京都大学エネルギー理工学研究所
Institute of Advanced Energy, Kyoto University

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

**Institute of Advanced Energy
Kyoto University**

Gokasho, Uji, Kyoto 611-0011
Japan

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FOREWORD



The Institute of Advanced Energy (IAE) was established in May 1996 to explore the energy systems for next generation by going back to the basic principles of nature, and to create new energy theories for the next generation and advanced technologies to lead and realize these theories. Currently, faculty members belonging to the Faculty Consort of Advanced Energy in the Natural Science Platform are engaged in 14 research sections in three divisions, each of which investigates one of the following three basic processes of energy: generation, conversion, and utilization. The institute has set up the Laboratory for Complex Energy Processes with five research sections, which supports and stimulates collaborative research to address issues related to complex energy processes.

The two core research areas of the institute are “Plasma and Quantum Energy Science” and “Soft Energy Science”. The former aims to realize nuclear fusion to generate solar energy on earth. The latter aims to achieve highly efficient energy utilization and conversion based on the principles of materials science and energy use by living organisms, which have built the biosphere on earth with solar energy. In addition to actively promoting the internationalization of research and the return of research results to society through industry–academia–government collaboration, we educate students of Liberal Arts and Science Courses and the Graduate School of Energy Science as the Cooperating Chair, foster young researchers in a front-line research environment.

The institute has been certified as a “Zero-Emission Energy” Joint Usage/Research Center by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in 2011, and has held this status for the third time, starting from the fiscal year of 2022. As the research hub of Zero-Emission Energy, we collaborate with domestic and overseas researchers over a broad spectrum of academic fields, as well as promote the share-use of cutting-edge research equipment to strengthen the foundation of academic research and to accelerate novel scientific research.

In Japan, too, the goal of “virtually eliminating greenhouse gas emission by 2050” has been set, and carbon neutrality is now a goal for societies worldwide. IAE has been committed to pursue a wide range of research aimed at Zero-Emission Energy, which will play an increasingly important role in achieving carbon neutrality and providing a variety of new energy technology options.

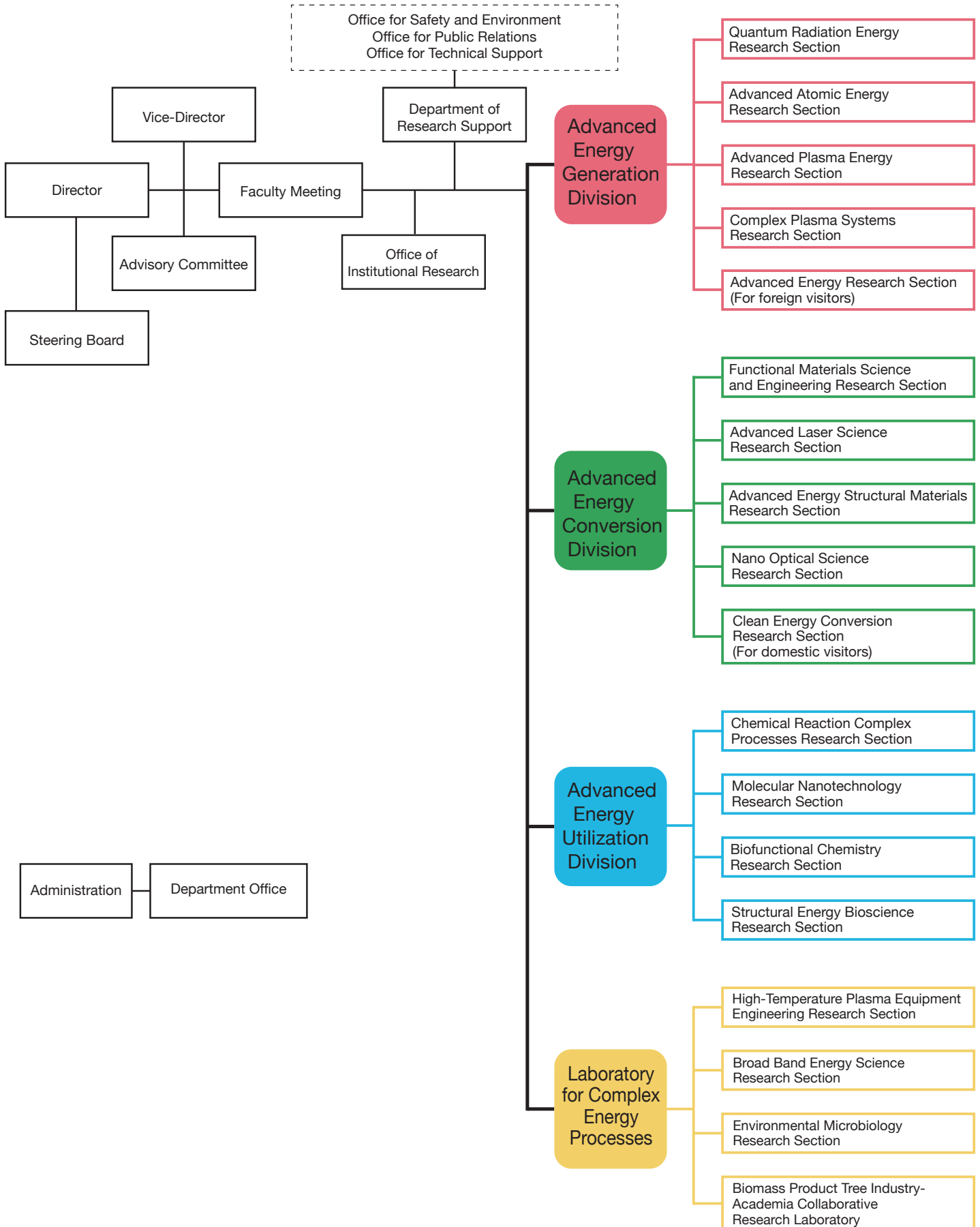
This annual report summarizes the key research findings at each research section of IAE for FY2021 (April 2021-March 2022). I hope you enjoy the ongoing research of our institute in a wide array of scientific disciplines that will certainly create innovative solutions to satisfy the demands to realize carbon neutrality.

March 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. MORII', written in a cursive style.

Takashi MORII
Director
Institute of Advanced Energy
Kyoto University

2. ORGANIZATION CHART



3. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

3-1. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN 2021

Quantum Radiation Energy Research Section

H. Ohgaki, Professor
 T. Kii, Associate Professor
 H. Zen, Assistant Professor
 Jordi Cravioto Caballero, Program-Specific Assistant Professor

1. Introduction

Coherent-radiation energy with a wide wavelength tunability and a high power is an indispensable tool for exploiting cutting-edge science. The research in this section aims at generating and application of new quantum-radiation energy. Free-electron laser (FEL) is one of such radiation. We have been developing a mid-infrared FEL, KU-FEL. To extend study field wider wavelength region, a coherent A compact THz source, high Tc undulator for X-ray generation, and Laser Compton Gamma-ray (LCS) for isotope imaging have been carried out. Transdisciplinary research on renewable energy has also been promoted through international collaborations.

2. Free-electron Laser

FEL is a next generation light source because of its wide wavelength tunability where the conventional lasers cannot reach, potential high efficiency, and high peak power. However, the system is usually much larger and the cost is higher than conventional lasers. We are going to overcome these difficulties by exploiting an RF (radio-frequency) gun, a high Tc undulator, etc.

2.1 KU-FEL

The target wavelength of KU-FEL is MIR (Mid infra-red) regime, from 5 to 20 μm , with high-power and turnability for basic researches on energy materials. Figure 1 shows a schematic drawing of the KU-FEL system. The KU-FEL consists of a 4.5-cell thermionic RF gun, a 3-m travelling wave accelerator tube, a beam transport system, and a 1.8-m undulator and a 5-m optical resonator. The FEL device now can cover the wavelength range from 3.4 to 28 μm . The maximum macro-pulse energy which can provide is around 40 mJ in a 2- μs macro-pulse at the wavelength of 4.9 μm . The FEL is routinely operated and opened for internal and external users.

Another topic of KU-FEL development is introduction of photo-cathode RF gun, which enables to generate higher peak power and wider tunable range MIR-FEL. Development of a UV-laser system for illuminating photo-cathode has been completed under collaboration with Dr. R. Kuroda, Researcher of AIST. In FY2014, we have achieved FEL lasing with photo-

electron beam generated from LaB₆ cathode. In FY2018, the laser system has been upgraded under the Q-LEAP project organized by MEXT. This upgrade increases the macro-pulse duration of the photocathode operation. Under the photocathode operation, the world highest extraction efficiency of the oscillator-type FEL has been achieved.

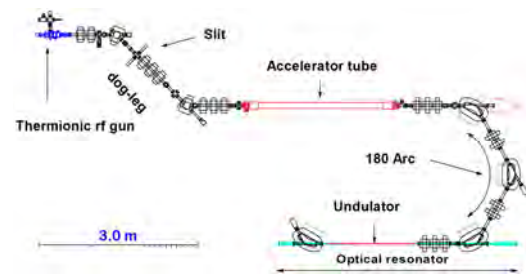


Fig. 1 Schematic drawing of the KU-FEL

2.2 THz Coherent Undulator Radiation Source

A new compact terahertz coherent undulator radiation source (THz-CUR) has been constructed. It consists of a 1.6-cell RF-gun, a solenoid magnet, a magnetic chicane bunch compressor, a triplet quadrupole magnet, a planar undulator, and a laser system for photocathode. Schematic view of the proposed system is shown in Fig 2. In this device, short electron bunches are generated by the photocathode RF gun and the bunch compressor. The electron bunches are injected to the undulator and intense coherent undulator radiation can be generated.

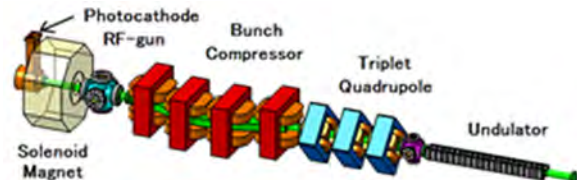


Fig. 2 3D image of THz coherent undulator radiation source.

The 1.6 cell RF gun used for the THz-CUR was replaced with an energy chirping cell attached RF gun for improving its performance under collaboration with Dr. Sakaue, Tokyo University. The gun utilizes a velocity bunching scheme for generating ultra-short electron bunch. A commissioning experiment has been done and the saturation of THz peak power due to the

space charge effect can be successfully suppressed.

The polarization control method of the THz-CUR has been developed under collaboration with Dr. Kashiwagi, Tohoku University. The polarization state of the THz-CUR can be easily controlled from linear to left-handed circular and right-handed circular without significant power loss.

2.3 Application of MIR-FEL and THz-CUR

Many application researches of MIR-FEL and THz-CUR have been performed under the Joint Usage/Research Center for Zero Emission Energy Research of our Institute. In JFY2020, 14 external user groups used KU-FEL.

3. Bulk HTSC Staggered Array Undulator

An undulator with strong magnetic field will play an important role in future synchrotron light sources and FELs. We have developing a new undulator which consists of stacked bulk high critical temperature superconductors array and a solenoid magnet. As a next prototype of this type of undulator, we have developed new prototype consists of a new solenoid whose maximum field was 6 T and GM cryocooler. Periodic magnetic field using bulk MgB_2 array was demonstrated and better field uniformity than that of REBCO array was observed as shown in fig. 3.

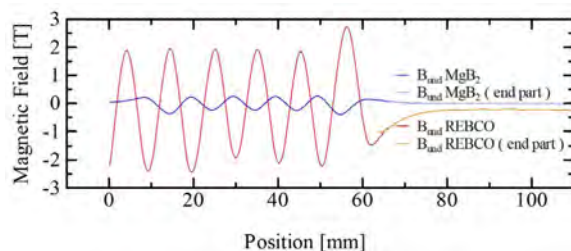


Fig. 3 Undulator field using the MgB_2 array and the REBCO array were demonstrated. Although the measured field amplitude of the MgB_2 array was smaller than that of the REBCO, the field uniformity for the MgB_2 array was better than that of the REBCO.

4. Isotope Imaging for Nuclear Safety and Security

A Nuclear Resonance Fluorescence (NRF) method is a powerful tool for an isotope selective

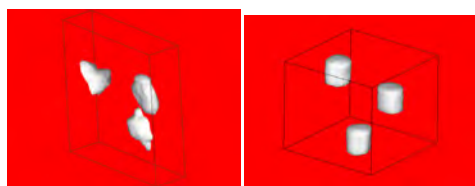


Fig. 4 Original isotope selective 3D image (left) and the fusion visualization image (right).

imaging. In 2021, we improved the image quality of the isotope selective 3D image by using a fusion visualization technique in combination with the NRF based rough CT image which provides the isotope distribution and a gamma-ray CT image which gives a high-resolution image of the CT target. A proof-of-principle experiment has been carried out at BLIU LCS beamline in UVSOR. The image quality of the original isotope (^{208}Pb) selective 3D image (Fig.4 left) was dramatically improved by the fusion visualization technique, as shown in Fig. 4 right.

5. Social aspects of energy use

Electrification projects using renewables are essential to achieve SDG7. These projects can positively influence poverty eradication and community development. Our group investigates the effects of electrification on quality of life in rural contexts of ASEAN by comparing the process and outcomes of different electrification systems (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5 Rural electrification survey sites 2016-2022

In urban contexts of ASEAN, our group also conducts analyses on household roles in connection with efficient appliance purchasing using survey data and quantitative methods. Finally, in the context of Latin America, we also study geographical and socio-cultural characterizations of household energy services.

Acknowledgment

All our research work have been supported by the KAKENHI, Q-LEAP(MEXT), JASTIP(JST), UVSOR Collaboration Research, The Heiwa Nakajima Foundation, The Murata Foundation, Hitachi Zaidan, CSEAS DASU (Kyoto University), and the Laboratory for Complex Energy Processes Collaboration Research (IAE).

Collaboration Works

大垣英明, University of Malaya (マレーシア), 倉田奨励基金:「Before and After 手法による東南アジアにおける非電化地区への再生可能エネルギー導入の住民生活に与える影響に関する研究」

大垣英明, 森井孝, 片平正人, 野平俊之, モンゴル国立大学, インドネシア大学, フィリピン大学ディリマン校, ベトナム国家大学ハノイ校, ラオス国立大学, 王立プノンペン大学, アジア新興国産天然資源を由来とする機能性物質創生のための高度分析研究拠点の形成

大垣英明, NSTDA (タイ), JASTIP「日 ASEAN 科学技術イノベーション共同研究拠点—持続可能開発研究の推進」

大垣英明, University of Malaya (マレーシア), JASTIP-net

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紀井俊輝, 基盤研究(A), 新材料 Mg B 2 と超伝導電流流体解析による新型アンジュレータ精密磁場制御法の確立 (繰越し)

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物の統合バイオリファイナリー

大垣英明, 科学技術振興機構, 日 ASEAN 科学技術イノベーション共同研究拠点—持続可能開発研究の推進—

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Advanced Atomic Energy Research Section

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1. Introduction

Main objective of our research section is to realize advanced energy systems for the sustainable development under global environmental constraints. We have shown a Zero-emission energy scenario based on fusion energy with biomass-based recycling system where biomass waste is converted into liquid fuel or hydrogen. And further we now propose an innovative Negative emission scenario. to isolate CO₂ in the atmosphere by a carbonization process. Our research section focuses on development of hydrogen isotopes fuel circulation system, breeding blankets, fusion material R&D, feasibility study for fusion-biomass hybrid power system, conversion of biomass waste, and fusion neutron generation/measurement. Followings are main research achievements in the fiscal year of 2021.

- Hydrogen permeation quantification through a structure material and the effect of the existence of ceramic breeding material.
- Development and successful operation of liquid lithium lead droplet system for efficient recovery of hydrogen isotope using a heat and mass-transfer loop.
- Development of hydrogen isotope pumping system using proton conducting ceramics for the divertor exhaust in a fusion system.
- Upgrade of a compact fusion neutron source for radiography

2. Hydrogen permeation through structural material

Understanding the permeation behavior of tritium from a pebble bed breeding blanket is essential for establishing a self-sufficient fuel cycle in a nuclear fusion reactor. It is known that double corrosion layers forms on reduced activation ferritic-martensitic (RAFM) steel surface by gas release from a ceramic breeder material, however, its effect on hydrogen permeation behavior has not been elucidated. In-situ measurement of hydrogen permeation through an F82H RAFM wall of a ceramic breeder pebble bed was performed using a new experimental set-up (Fig. 1). The corrosion layer formed on the F82H sample had a dense microstructure, which reduced hydrogen permeation flux at

least by one order of magnitude. The permeation reduction factors were 20–50 at the water-coolant temperature of a blanket. A self-repairing ability is expected for the surface oxide layer as the corrosion occurs spontaneously inside a breeding blanket.

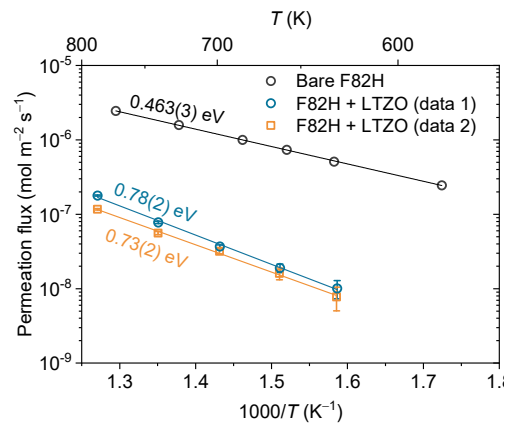


Fig. 1 Hydrogen permeation fluxes through the bare and corroded F82H samples.

3. Development of liquid lithium lead droplet system

Lead lithium eutectic alloy (Pb-17at%Li, Pb-Li) is a candidate liquid breeding material with low chemical reactivity and good tritium breeding ratio. Effective tritium recovery method from the liquid must be developed for the blanket system with minimal tritium

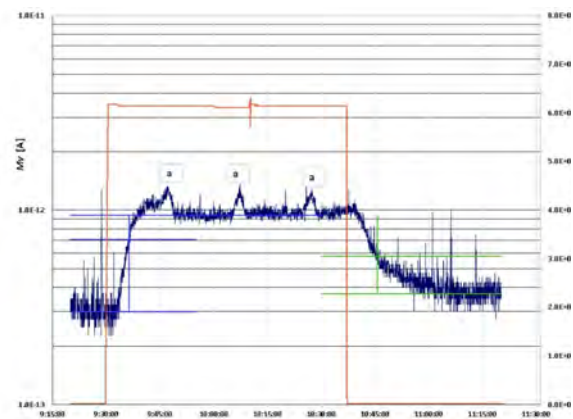


Fig.2: The hydrogen isotope recovery by VST.

loss. The vacuum sieve tray (VST) method, tritium recovery from the liquid droplet surface falling in vacuum, is a candidate developed in this section. This fiscal year, on a collaboration work with National Institute for Fusion Science (NIFS) a VST test device (multiple nozzles system) was integrated to Oroshhi-2 (Pb-Li test loop) at NIFS and the continuous operation campaign was performed in the next fiscal year. One of the recovery result for deuterium is shown in Figure 2. The deuterium fed to the loop system was successfully recovered at the VST test section.

4. Electrochemical transport of hydrogen isotopes for the diverter exhaust development

Hydrogen isotopes pumping system using a proton conducting electrolyte (ceramic) is a candidate diverter exhaust pump for a nuclear fusion system, which can selectively exhaust hydrogen isotopes (D and T) without He, reducing the tritium inventory in the tritium fuel cycle system.

BYCO ($\text{BaCe}_{0.8}\text{Y}_{0.2}\text{O}_{3-\alpha}$) plate with Pt electrodes were fabricated and the hydrogen isotopes transport behavior through the plate was investigated. The experimental setup is shown in Fig.3. H_2 and D_2 containing Ar gas was fed to the outer surface of the BYCO plate, and the inner surface was wept by pure Ar gas, whose H and D concentration was monitored afterward.

The mass flux result obtained at 500°C , changing the feeding gas concentration applying 1 V, is shown in the Figure 4. The current efficiency is assumed to be around 70%, and transport of D was found to be less than that of H.

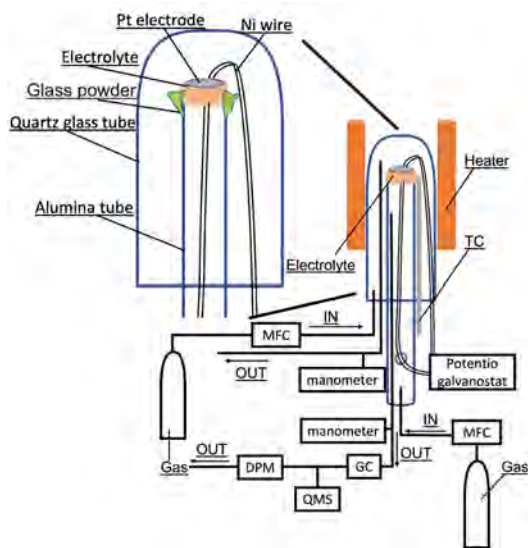


Fig.4: The experimental setup of the hydrogen isotopes pumping system using BYCO plate.

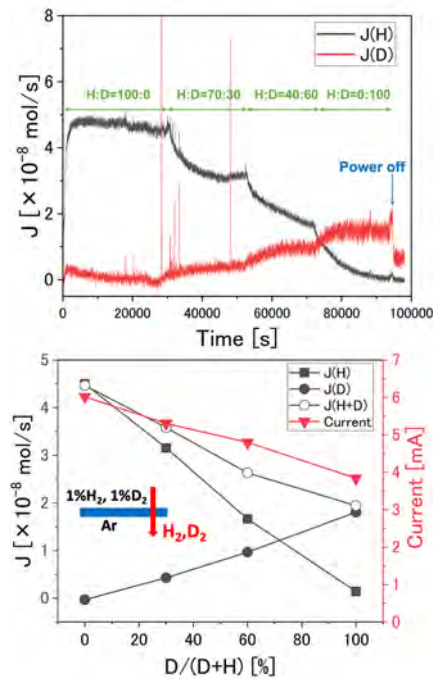


Fig.4: The H and D transport behavior at 500°C trend (upper) and the quasi-steady state analysis (lower)

5. Compact fusion neutron source for radiography

Development of a compact neutron source with a higher neutron production rate is of importance for a wide range of its application, including radiography and boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT). A three-stage feedthrough system is employed in the developed compact IEC to address this contradiction. A feedback control system was developed and applied to the input and output parameters. Characterization of the developed system was performed by scanning the neutron yield as a function of applied voltage and cathode current. To date, a maximum neutron yield of $9.2 \times 10^7 \text{ n} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ at 6.4 kW (80 kV and 80 mA) has been obtained. Neutron images (Fig. 5) showed there was good a contrast between the sample and the background. The results suggest that optimization of the experimental parameters is needed to perform higher accuracy neutron radiography.

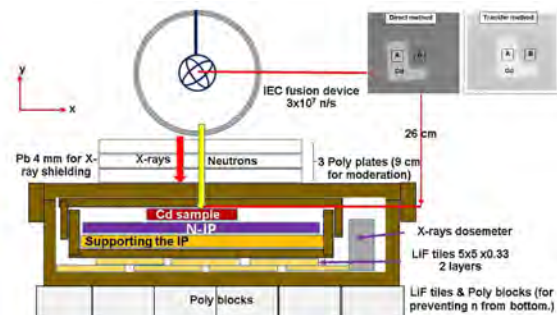


Fig.5 Experimental layout and neutron images by direct method and transfer method.

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Advanced Plasma Energy Research Section

K. Nagasaki, Professor
S. Kobayashi, Associate Professor

1. Introduction

The current subjects of this research section are to study the properties of high-temperature plasmas in order to control and improve the plasma energy confinement from the physical viewpoint of nuclear fusion research. The experimental and theoretical investigations for optimizing the helical-axis heliotron configuration are in progress under the collaboration with other groups of the international/national institutes and groups of other universities under the auspices of the Collaboration Program of the Lab. Complex Energy Processes, IAE, and the Collaborative Research Program of NIFS (National Institute for Fusion Science).

In this report, a remarkable result obtained in the Heliotron J experimental study in FY2020 is reported focusing on transport characteristics regarding magnetic configurations, including the magnetic island effect, especially in (1) characteristics of edge plasmas inside the magnetic island, (2) measurement of radial electric field and its dependence on rotational transform profile and (3) development of beam emission spectroscopy for turbulent fluctuation measurement.

2. Characteristics of edge plasmas inside magnetic island based on Langmuir Probe measurements

Plasma transport in the magnetic island is gaining importance in stellarator/heliotron and tokamak devices. Heliotron J can control the width and the position of magnetic islands by controlling the rotational transformation. Therefore, the effects of the magnetic island structure on transport and turbulent fluctuations can be systematically investigated.

We measured a magnetic island around the last closed flux surface (LCFS) with a Langmuir probe. The connection length of the magnetic field in the measurement range of the probe and the electron temperature profiles are shown in Figure 1(a) and (b). The horizontal axis is the distance from the LCFS. In the case without the magnetic island, the electron temperature decreases monotonically as the connection length decreases outside the LCFS. However, in the case of the magnetic island, there is a peak in the electron temperature profile in the magnetic island region outside the LCFS, where the connection length is in the same order of the confinement region.

To investigate the effect of the magnetic island on the heat transport, the ECH was modulated (frequency of 100 Hz and modulation amplitude of 30%), and the response was observed. As shown in Figure 1(c), the phase inside the magnetic island, determined from the response time to the pre-programmed modulation heating, is delayed compared to the outer edge of the island. This may reflect the closed magnetic field line structure in the magnetic island region, which inhibits the propagation of heat into the island. It was shown that the magnetic island structure in the edge region affects the heat transport in the edge region and that heating modulation is a useful tool for investigating the magnetic field structure outside the LCFS.

3. Measurement of radial electric field using Doppler reflectometer and its dependence on rotation transform profile

The radial electric field structure has a significant effect on the performance of the plasma confinement. The shear of the radial electric field E_r at the peripheral region causes $E_r \times B$ drift, and flow generated by the drift may suppress turbulence by tearing off large vortices in the plasma. Because the plasma confinement in Heliotron J has been dependent on the rotational transform, it is important to investigate the relationship between the radial electric field and the confinement. In this study, we investigated the dependence of

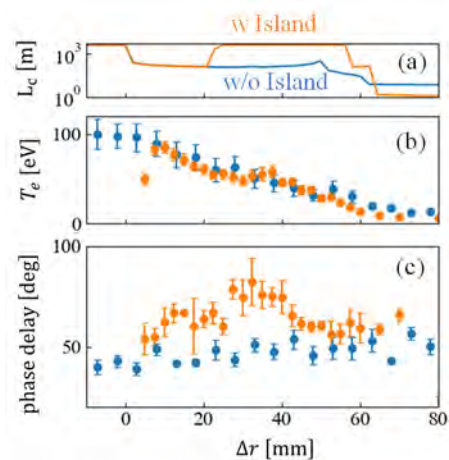


Fig. 1 Profiles of (a) connection length, (b) electron temperature and (c) phase delay with and without the magnetic island.

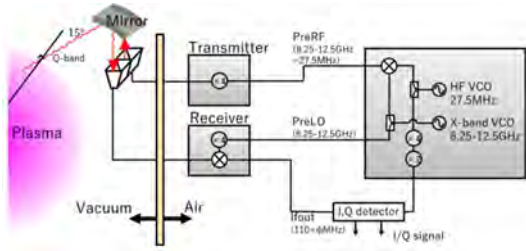


Fig. 2. Schematic diagram of the reflectometer system.

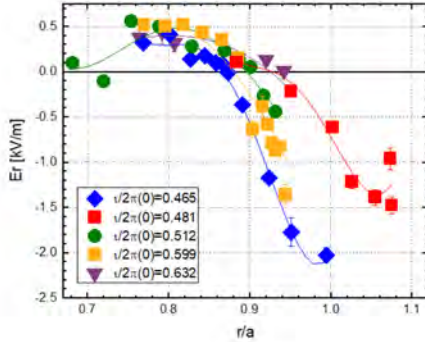


Fig. 3. Radial electric field and its dependence on rotational transform profile.

the spatial profile of the radial electric field contributing to the confinement performance on the magnetic field configuration in ECH plasmas by scanning the rotational transform. We used a microwave Doppler reflectometer to measure the radial electric field. A schematic diagram is shown in Fig. 2.

The spatial profile of the radial electric field for each rotational transformation obtained by reflectometer is shown in Fig. 3. The horizontal axis represents the normalized minor radius of the torus, and the vertical axis represents the radial electric field. Almost all configurations, a positive radial electric field with a flat profile can be seen inside $r/a = 0.9$, while a significant radial electric field shear is generated at the peripheral region. The position of the radial electric field shear shifts significantly outward at $v/2\pi(0) = 0.481$. Since it is known that magnetic islands are generated at the peripheral plasma region in the magnetic configuration, the existence of the magnetic island may affect the radial electric field structure at the peripheral region.

4. Development of beam emission spectroscopy for turbulent fluctuation measurement in peripheral region

The transport by fluctuations is considered one of the key factors that deteriorate the plasma confinement performance. The density fluctuations have been measured in Heliotron J using beam emission spectroscopy (BES). The BES has been a great advantage for understanding the physics of MHD activities and long-wavelength plasma turbulence. In the

numerical calculation for the turbulent transport of Heliotron J, the intensity of turbulent fluctuations is considered to be in the order of $\tilde{n}/n \sim 0.1\%$. The previous studies have shown that detectable intensity level of the density fluctuation was in the order of 1%, and it requires the BE intensity up to three times higher than the current system. This study aims to construct a new BES system that can measure turbulent fluctuations. Since the intensity of turbulent fluctuations outside the torus is expected to be higher and the new sightlines are nearer observation area, the new BES system are expected to measure turbulent fluctuations.

To investigate the favorable sightlines for Heliotron J configuration, we have simulated the BE intensity using a numerical model calculation. This code can calculate the spatial and spectral profile of the beam emission deduced from the collisional excitation model between the electrons/ions and the neutral beam atoms in plasmas deduced from the beam trajectory analysis using Monte Carlo method. The new BES sightlines are shown in Fig. 4(a). The sightlines are $5(\text{radial}) \times 4(\text{poloidal}) = 20$ channel. The spatial pitch between sightlines is 10 mm. The measurable wave number range $k_{\perp}\rho$ is estimated to be smaller than 0.42 in the standard parameter of Heliotron J plasmas. Fig. 4(b) shows the radial profile of beam emission intensity. As a result, higher beam intensity can be expected at the peripheral area using new sightlines.

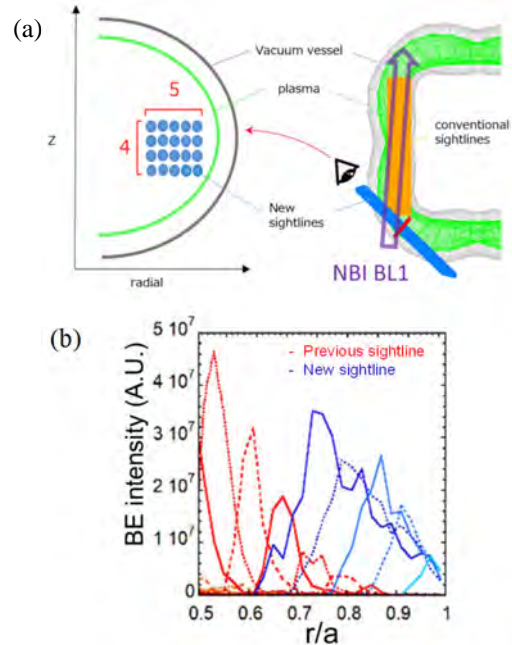


Fig. 4. (a) Schematic illustration of the BES sightlines. The new sightlines are designed to observe density fluctuations at peripheral region. (b) Radial profile of the calculated BE intensity.

Collaboration Works

長崎百伸, 小林進二, 南貴司, 大島慎介, Univ. Wisconsin (アメリカ), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (アメリカ), Max Plank Institute (ドイツ), Stuttgart Univ (ドイツ), CIEMAT (スペイン), Australian National Univ., (オーストラリア), Kharkov Institute (ウクライナ), Southwest Institute of Physics (中国), 先進ヘリカルシステムにおける周辺プラズマ・ダイバータ研究

長崎百伸, 西南物理研究所 (中国), IPP, Greifswald (ドイツ), University of Wisconsin (アメリカ), 先進ヘリカルシステムにおける反射計を用いた電子密度・揺動解析

長崎百伸, IPP, Greifswald (ドイツ), 先進ヘリカルシステムにおける電子サイクロトロン電流駆動

長崎百伸, 大島慎介, 南貴司, 小林進二, Stuttgart Univ., CIEMAT (スペイン), 先進ヘリカル磁場配位の最適化に向けたネットワーク拠点形成

長崎百伸, 核融合科学研究所・双方向型共同研究, 磁場分布制御を活用したプラズマ構造形成制御とプラズマ輸送改善

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門信一郎, 小林進二, 核融合科学研究所・双方向型共同研究, 磁場閉じ込めプラズマにおける複合粒子補給制御を用いた高密度化 (GAMMA 10/PDX における複合粒子制御法を用いた ELM 模擬)

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Complex Plasma Systems Research Section

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 S. Ohshima, Assistant Professor

1. Introduction

Magnetic nuclear fusion energy has some attractive features as a future option for the base-load electrical power source: (1) inherent safety features, (2) no long-life nuclear waste emission, (3) no greenhouse gas emission during the energy production, (4) huge energy density stored in the fuel source (~90 MWh/g for D-T fuel), (5) abundant source availability spreading all over the Earth, and (6) high nuclear proliferation resistance, in terms of both resources and weapons technologies.

Among various issues to be overcome in physics and engineering fields, we have focused on the problems related to the plasma transport and magneto-hydrodynamics. Specifically, determination of a magnetic configuration that can efficiently confine high-density plasma at high temperature with a sufficiently long confinement time and developing diagnostics and control schemes for the high-temperature plasmas in such magnetic fields are regarded as crucial. In these respects, our research section investigates about heating and fueling, confinement and diffusion mechanisms and their diagnostics in a magnetic plasma confinement device, named Heliotron J.

Results in FY2021 featured in this report are about the diagnostic upgrade which is regarded as a key issue for characterizing the transport properties in fusion-relevant magnetic confinement plasmas.

2. Development of Multi-path Thomson Scattering System on Heliotron J

Nd:YAG-Laser Thomson scattering diagnostics is a powerful tool to measure electron temperature and density having high spatial resolution. Our system in Heliotron J, employing dual laser system, can operate at 100 Hz.

Due to the small scattering cross section, however, the scattered light signal produced from an ECH plasma ($n_e \sim 0.5 \times 10^{19} \text{m}^{-3}$) needs to be accumulated for many shots to yield better signal-to noise ratio.

We have developed a double-pass and multi-path system with signal accumulation technique in multi-path Thomson scattering system (MPTS) on Heliotron J.

An anisotropic electron temperature measurement, as shown in Fig.1, requires analyzing signal separately, for reaching a better understanding of transport mechanism of

super-thermal electrons. The scattered light signals, corresponding to two adjacent beam incidences having 160° and 20° scattering angles respectively, overlap with each other completely due to an insufficient length of optical path caused by limited room providing for layout of Thomson scattering system.

To solve this problem, a MPTS with signal separation function is proposed using double-pockels cells. Design of optical path for the double pockels-cells system is given out based on Gaussian beam analysis, which determines the specific position of each optical component, by maintaining spot size and power density evolution of laser beam under the limit of entry diameter, exit diameter and power threshold of each component.

We have performed a signal detection of the MPTS, in following order:

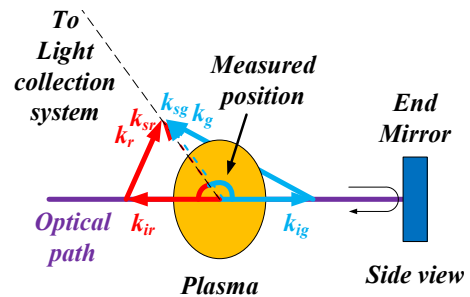


Fig.1 Going(g) and returning(r) wave vectors in reciprocating probe beam.

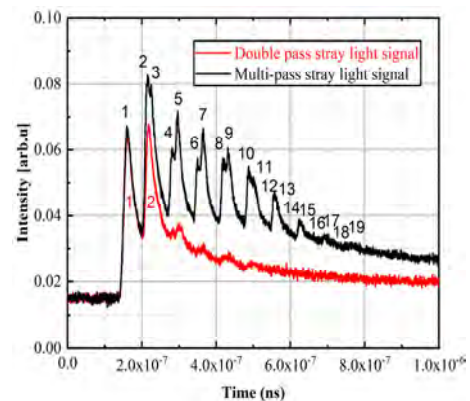


Fig. 2 Comparison of stray light signal between multi-pass system and double-pass system.

- 1) stray-light produced by the diffuse reflection from the mirror in the beam path,
- 2) Raman scattering using 300 Torr Nitrogen gas, and
- 3) Thomson scattering signal in plasma experiment.

We confirmed up to at least 16 reciprocating scattering signals in 1), as in Fig.2, showing the successful optical configuration and trigger synchronization.

3. Upgrade of the EUV Spectroscopy System for the Spatial Distribution Measurement of Impurity Spectra in Heliotron J

Highly charged impurity ions in the fuel gases, deuterium and tritium, can lead to a considerable amount of plasma energy loss, making the critical conditions for fusion reactions more difficult to achieve. This situation becomes more significant in high density and high temperature plasmas where considerable fraction of plasma radiation is in extreme ultraviolet (EUV) region. Therefore, EUV spectroscopy would be an important method to study those impurities [1].

In Heliotron J experiment, we have used micro-channel plate (MCP) system combined with the phosphor-screen and linear sensor for EUV spectroscopy for many years. In this study, we replaced the MCP system with a new Soft-X ray (SX-) CCD detector. The SX-CCD can be operated in full vertical binning (FVB) mode, in which full image area is binned to a direction of the shift register to improve the time resolution.

Figure 3 shows the spectra obtained for both detectors using the reproducible discharge condition of the magnetic configuration and the electron density. Impurity spectral intensity was not perfectly but fairly close to each other.

The signal was normalized to the spectral peak at around O V at 17.22 nm ($1s^22s^2\ ^1S_0 - 1s^22s3p\ ^1P^o_1$). Note, however, that the quantum efficiency for both detectors could be different. One can see that the root-mean-square noise for SX-CCD has much better than MCP system by more than 7 times.

The other specifications compared are listed in Table 1. SX-CCD, with the compatible flange, has a little wide measurement region, giving more pixels per instrumental function, full-width at half maximum (FWHM).

One concern we encountered in the application of SX-CCD was the malfunction under the time-varying dominantly vertical magnetic field up to 30 mT at the location of the detector, since all electrical circuit are built-in in the detector. To reduce this magnetic field, a magnetic shield made of soft iron 6 mm in thickness was installed.

The vertical magnetic field inside the shield was reduced down to about 0.15 mT. Even though the hor-

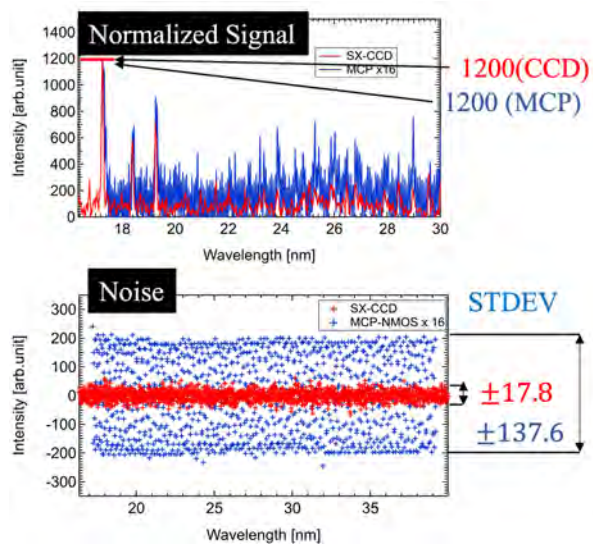


Fig. 3 S/N assessment for #78218 (MCP) and #81829 (CCD). Signal (up) was normalized to both detectors and noise component, before the plasma discharge, (down) was compared.

	MCP system	SX-CCD
Region	17.215 ~ 39.21 nm	16.345 ~ 39.98 nm
Pixels in FWHM	5.56~4.00	9.00~6.42
Resolution(around 34.61nm)	0.10 nm	0.09 nm
S/N	8.7:1	67.4:1
Reciprocal linear dispersion	0.018 ~ 0.025 nm/pixel	0.010 ~ 0.014 nm/pixel

Table. 1 Comparisons of both detectors.

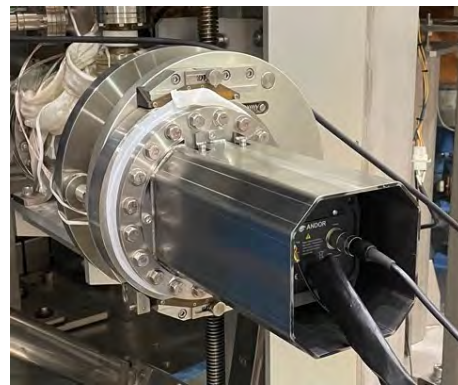


Fig. 4 Magnetic shield structure for the SX-CCD.

izontal component of 3 mT was remained, we confirmed the appropriate operation of the detector.

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Functional Materials Science and Engineering Research Section

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1. Introduction

Our research section focuses on the physical properties, functions, and energy applications of quantum materials that exhibit significant quantum mechanical effects, such as carbon nanotubes (CNT) and recently discovered topological materials. The aim is to create new technologies for highly efficient use of solar light/thermal energy that will contribute to the realization of a sustainable energy society. To understand the unique physical properties of these materials from the fundamental principles and extract superior functions that exceed the limits of conventional materials, we are promoting interdisciplinary research that covers basic sciences, including condensed matter physics and materials synthesis, as well as thermal, mechanical, electronic, and optical engineering along with the fabrication of integrated nanomaterials. Followings are main research achievements in the year of 2021.

2. Development of theory of exciton thermal radiation in semiconducting single-walled carbon nanotubes

As one of the advanced application technologies of thermal radiation, thermophotovoltaic power generation technology is under development. In this power generation method, thermal radiation generated from a hot object is used as an input to a photovoltaic cell to generate electricity (Figure 1a). In principle, the energy conversion efficiency is high when the radiation energy is concentrated in the near-infrared wavelength region near the band gap of the photovoltaic cell, and therefore, materials with high emissivity only in the near-infrared region and high thermal stability are suitable as materials for thermal radiation generating components called wavelength selective emitters.

Single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs), which are nanoscale materials (nanomaterials) composed of a single layer of graphene sheet rolled up into a cylindrical shape with a diameter of the order of 1 nm, are promising materials with such characteristics. Previously, we revealed that SWCNTs show significantly narrow-band near-infrared thermal radiation in the near infrared wavelength range (Figure 1b) [1] based on the direct observation of the thermal radiation from an individual suspended SWCNTs heated to temperatures above 1000 K using dark-field microscopy in vacuum. Recently, we have theoretically clarified that this narrow bandwidth is a consequence of

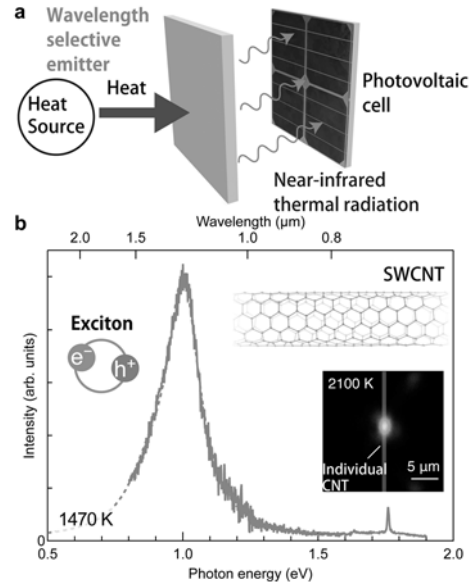


Fig. 1 (a) Schematic of thermophotovoltaic power generation. (b) Thermal radiation spectrum of a single suspended SWCNT. Inset shows an example of an SWCNT structure (top) and microscopy image of the thermal radiation at 2100 K from an individual SWCNT.

the very strong Coulomb interaction between electrons (negative charge) and holes (positive charge) in SWCNTs. Unlike in conventional materials, the electrons and holes are bound to each other and move in a correlated manner in SWCNTs. Therefore, thermal excitation of an electron and a hole leads to formation of a hydrogen atom-like quantum state called exciton. The exciton has a discrete energy level structure similar to that of a hydrogen atom, and thus has well-defined energy, and the annihilation of the exciton generates a narrow-band thermal radiation reflecting the exciton energy. To theoretically investigate light emission due to thermal excitons, we used fluctuational electromagnetics to derive a simple and practical formula for emissivity $e(\omega)$ that appropriately incorporates the structure of SWCNTs and exciton effect

$$e(\omega) = \frac{\omega d}{3c} \text{Im}[\varepsilon(\omega)],$$

where d is the diameter, c is the speed of light, and $\varepsilon(\omega)$ is the dielectric function. With this formula, the emissivity can be easily obtained given the diameter and dielectric function of the SWCNTs, allowing us to study the thermal radiation due to thermal excitons at various diameters.

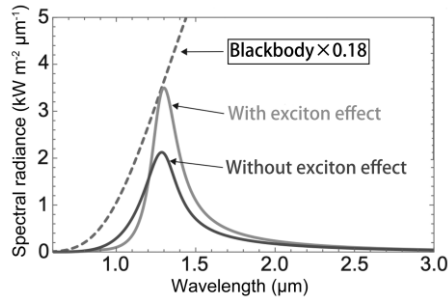


Fig. 2 Theoretically calculated thermal radiation spectra of an SWCNT at 1300 K with and without considering the excitonic effect. Dashed curve indicates 0.18-multiplied black body radiation spectrum at 1300 K.

Figure 2 shows the calculated thermal radiation spectra of an SWCNT with a diameter of 1.1 nm at 1300 K with and without exciton effect (the dotted line is the blackbody radiation spectrum at 1300 K). It is clearly shown that the exciton effect increases the thermal radiation intensity and narrows the line width. Also, compared to the blackbody thermal radiation spectrum, the thermal radiation from an SWCNT has a very narrow line width. This result is in good agreement with the experimental result shown in Figure 1b and proves the correctness of the thermal radiation theory of thermal excitons obtained in this study [2].

2. Complex refractive index measurement of carbon nanotube membranes - Toward wavelength selective radiation and absorption applications

In order to design thermo-optic devices such as wavelength-selective emitters that require precise control of spectral emissivity, information on the complex refractive index spectrum, which defines the macroscopic optical properties of the material, is necessary. In particular, the complex refractive index spectra of SWCNT membranes with a well-defined chiral structure are required because there exist variety of nanotube species with different chiral structures reflecting the degree of freedom in the wrapping of graphene, and the exciton energy is determined by the structure of the SWCNTs. However, broadband complex refractive index spectra of single chiral structure SWCNT membranes have not been reported so far, which has hindered the development of SWCNT-based optical devices, including wavelength selective emitters.

Response functions, such as optical susceptibility describing the response of a material to light, are generally complex numbers. Therefore, physical properties such as the refractive index obtained from the susceptibility are also generally expressed in terms of complex numbers that depend on the frequency. In this study, we determined the complex refractive index spectra of membranes of five different chiral structures. The results are summarized in Figure 3, which

shows similar spectral shapes except for the difference in the resonance energy of the exciton peak sensitive to the nanotube chiral structure (chirality) indicated by two integers. From this similarity, we further examined whether the complex refractive index spectra can be reproduced simply by using only the average values of the parameters obtained from the five types of SWCNT membranes. The gray shaded area in Figure 3b shows the reproduced values, and it is found that most of the experimental data can be covered by taking into account an error of $\pm 20\%$. This result implies that the complex refractive index spectra of SWCNT membranes other than these five types of chirality could also be predicted to some extent by extrapolation. Using the empirical formula for the complex refractive index spectrum, now one can design various optical and thermo-optical devices such as wavelength-selective emitters matching the band gap of photovoltaic cells, wavelength-selective absorber films, and dielectric multilayers combining SWCNTs and other materials [3].

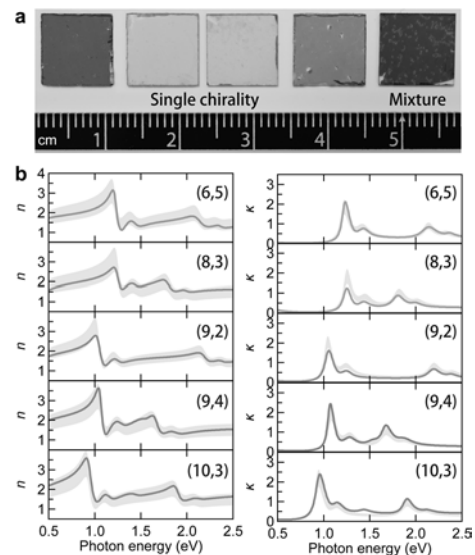


Fig. 3 (a) Photograph of single chirality (left four samples) and mixed chirality SWCNT membrane (right). (b) Real (left) and imaginary (right) parts of the complex refractive index spectra of five different SWCNT membranes.

Acknowledgement

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Advanced Laser Science Research Section

T. Nakajima, Associate Professor
K. Ando, Program-Specific Assistant Professor

1. Introduction

Laser is a very powerful tool to probe physical or chemical processes and fabricate/modify the target materials. This year we have developed a few different techniques to probe the electrochemical processes, fabricate the functional metal surfaces, and modify the size and shape of nanoparticles.

2. Probing the electrochemical process through optical detection of laser-assisted bubbles during electrolysis

In recent years hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) through electrolysis of water is considered to be one of the promising methods to store renewable energy. While water electrolysis is a well-known process, realization of highly efficient HER still remains very challenging, since, first of all, nucleation of hydrogen gas bubble formation itself is not yet very well-understood, and this is particularly true for the case of macroscopic commercial electrodes which do not provide ideally flat and smooth surfaces. Recall that nucleation dynamics crucially depends on the surface roughness. Not only the nucleation dynamics but also the detachment of the bubbles also critically depends on the surface structures with a roughness of sub- μm .

Last year we have developed a new technique to probe the concentration profile of dissolved gas by optically monitoring the ascending bubbles in vicinity to the electrode, and extrapolated the concentration profile toward the electrode surface, because the direct probe of bubbles on the electrode was technically difficult. This year we have developed a new technique to directly probe bubbles on the electrode. The electrolysis condition where our optical technique is applicable is also extended to the lower current density where no bubbles are formed. The key technique is to introduce a laser pulse to form laser-assisted bubbles on the electrode even under very low current densities. The experimental setup is shown in Fig. 1. Representative photos of the bubbles formed on the electrode upon irradiation of a laser pulse from the bottom is shown in Fig. 1(a) and (b). Obviously the higher the current density the more the laser-assisted bubbles are formed underneath the electrode.

Using a diffusion model we can estimate the dissolved H_2 gas concentration from the growth rates of

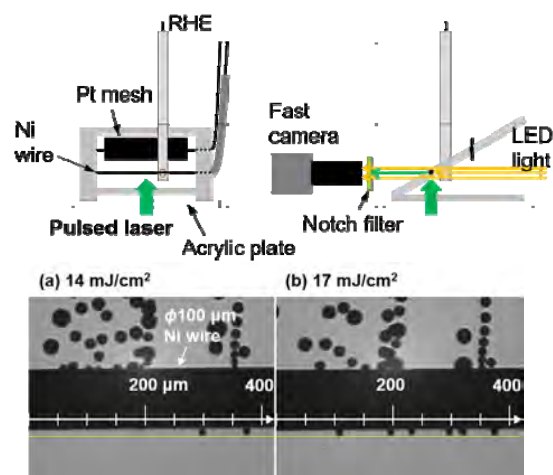


Fig. 1 (top) Experimental setup to detect laser induced bubbles during electrolysis and the measured bubbles underneath the Ni wire electrode at 20 ms after the laser pulse at the laser fluences of (a) 14 and (b) 17 mJ/cm^2 .

the bubbles which varies in time after the laser pulse. Employing the two methods we have developed last year and this year, we estimate the dissolved H_2 gas concentration as a function of current density, and the results are compared in Fig. 2. We notice that the H_2 gas concentrations at the electrode obtained by the two methods, i.e., optical monitoring of ascending bubbles in vicinity to the electrode and laser-assisted bubbles on the electrode, are in reasonable agreement, and the latter shows the nicer linearity in current density, indicating the superiority of the method uti-

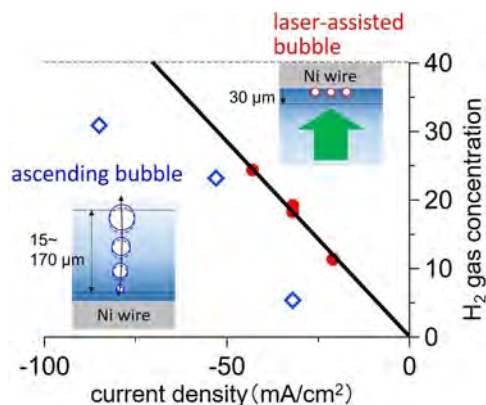


Fig. 2 Comparison of dissolved H_2 gas concentration at the Ni wire electrode by the two different methods we have developed, i.e., detection of ascending and laser-assisted bubbles.

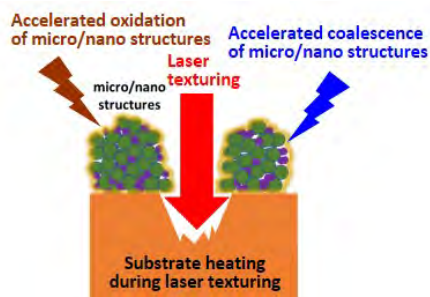


Fig. 3 Enhanced light absorption of metal surfaces by heat-assisted laser texturing.

lizing laser-assisted bubbles on the electrode.

3. Broadband light absorption of metal surfaces by heat-assisted laser texturing

Metal surfaces with high absorbance draw a lot of attention in recent years. In this work we have developed a new technique, heat-assisted laser texturing, to fabricate metal surfaces with broadband light absorption. In Fig. 3 we illustrate the underlying mechanism of enhanced light absorption by laser textured metal surfaces. Briefly, it comes from the geometric light trapping by micro/nano structures produced by laser texturing. The essence of heat-assisted laser texturing is to elevate the substrate temperature (by a few hundred °C) during laser texturing so that the texturing efficiency and oxidation speed are significantly promoted.

In Fig. 4 we summarize the reflectance of the Cu surfaces textured by the three different methods, i.e., laser texturing at room temperature, laser texturing at room temperature followed by thermal annealing at 300 °C for 1 hour, and heat-assisted laser texturing at 300 °C. It is clear that heat-assisted laser texturing is most effective.

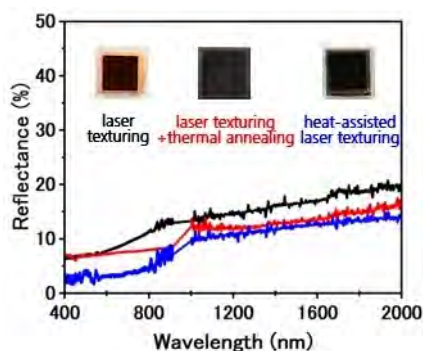


Fig. 4 Reflectance of Cu surfaces fabricated by the three different laser texturing methods.

4. Enhancing laser-nanoparticle interactions using a diffused laser beam

A laser beam with a good (flat-top or Gaussian) spatial profile is usually believed to be a prerequisite

to maximize laser-matter interactions. What we have found in this work is that this is not necessarily true. As an example we demonstrate the efficient size-reduction of colloidal nanoparticles by a diffused laser beam. Representative results are summarized in Fig. 5, where colloidal silver nanoparticles with an initial diameter of 100 nm are irradiated by the pulsed laser beam at 532 nm with two different spatial profiles, normal and diffused beams. The normal beam directly coming from the laser output is converted to the diffused beam simply by placing a commercial holographic diffuser with transmission of 85 % and divergence angle of $\sim 0.5^\circ$. From Fig. 5 we notice that the diffused beam significantly outperforms the normal beam in terms of the size reduction efficiency of nanoparticles, and the eminent peak appeared at ~ 400 nm by the diffused beam implies the very rapid size reduction of 100 nm Ag nanoparticles. To find the physical origin of this counterintuitive results we measure the beam profile to find that there are many bright speckles in the diffused beam as shown in the middle of Fig. 5. The XY-cuts of the normal and diffused beam profiles shown in the bottom of Fig. 5 clearly shows that the height of the speckles are by a few time higher than that of the normal beam with a nearly flat-top shape. Therefore, we can conclude that the physical origin of the counter-intuitively efficient laser-nanoparticle interactions by the diffused beam arises from the redistribution of laser energy by the formation of speckles where the local laser fluence exceeds the threshold of laser-induced size reduction.

Clearly, the demonstrated technique should be applicable to any kinds of nanoparticles and nanorods for size-reduction, reshaping, welding, etc., where a certain laser fluence threshold for the process exists.

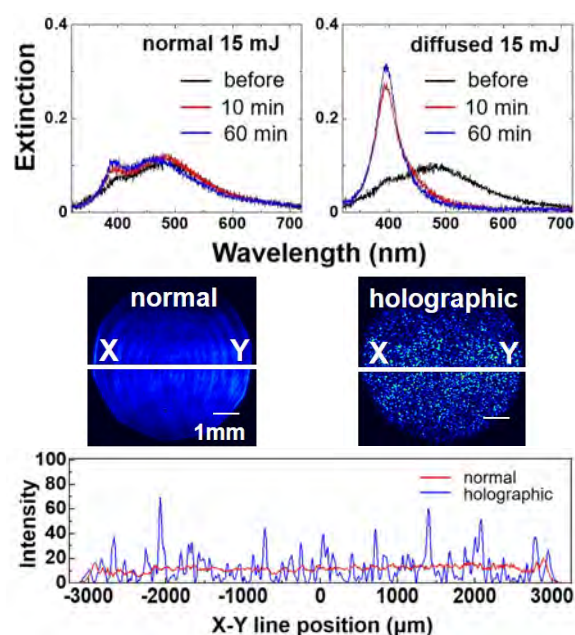


Fig. 5 Laser-induced size-reduction of Ag nanoparticles by the normal and diffused beams through a holographic diffuser.

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Advanced Energy Structural Materials Research Section

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 A. Kimura, Researcher

1. Introduction

In order to achieve the safety and efficient operations of advanced nuclear energy systems, the development and use of robust materials and the establishment of reliable system maintenance management are essential. This section addresses the mission of establishing the maintenance management methodology as well as material R & D for advanced nuclear energy systems such as fusion and fission reactors. Current main researches are as follows:

(1) Materials modeling and data-driven science & technology

Radiation damage processes in nuclear materials occur at a wide variety of time and length scales. To understand this process, so-called multiscale viewpoint and statistical arguments are required. In this section, efforts are made to model material behavior during irradiation complementarily using several computational techniques such as molecular dynamics, ab-initio quantum calculations, kinetic Monte-Carlo, rate-equation theory analysis, FEM and CFD. Recently, additional efforts have also been devoted to this research using machine learning, AI (artificial intelligence) and data-driven techniques.

(2) Plant integrity analysis

The structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) is critical to the reactor safety. Here, this is evaluated using three-dimensional computational fluid dynamics (3D-CFD) and the finite element method (FEM). Pressurized thermal shock (PTS) events during emergency water cooling, the most severe situation, are focused in this study. Through this evaluation, the risk of the RPV function loss is quantified and it is proposed as an indicator available for optimizing maintenance strategy.

(3) Effects of irradiation on the microstructure and mechanical property changes of materials

High energy particle irradiation leads to the formation of oversaturated interstitials and vacancies. The behavior of point defects is responsible for the evolution of the microstructure, which may cause degradation, (or development), of the mechanical properties of the material. The elucidation of the behavior of point defects is essential for understanding

the mechanisms responsible for the changes in mechanical properties. In our study, the microstructure evolution under high energy particle irradiation has been investigated experimentally and computationally.

2. Statistical arguments on non-equilibrium point defect production in materials under irradiation

In fusion reactor structural materials, displacement cascade process is initiated by collisions of incident high energy neutrons with target atoms, resulting in the production of a large number of athermal point defects, which significantly affects the microscopic composition and microstructure of the materials and changes their mechanical properties; hence, it is of great importance to investigate this process in depth. However, since the displacement cascade process occurs on a time scale of several tens of picoseconds, it is very difficult to observe by experiments, and computer simulation techniques are needed instead. Molecular dynamics (MD) is one of the most powerful tools to investigate the defect production process in materials due to displacement cascades. In this study, molecular dynamics simulations are performed to investigate displacement cascades in Fe as a function of primary knock-on atom (PKA) energy. The statistics of defect production due to displacement cascades is focused, where 1000 cases are simulated for individual PKA energies. It is found in our simulations that the simulated probability density function of the number of athermal point defects produced by displacement cascade exhibits approximately a normal distribution as shown in Fig. 1. For PKA energies below

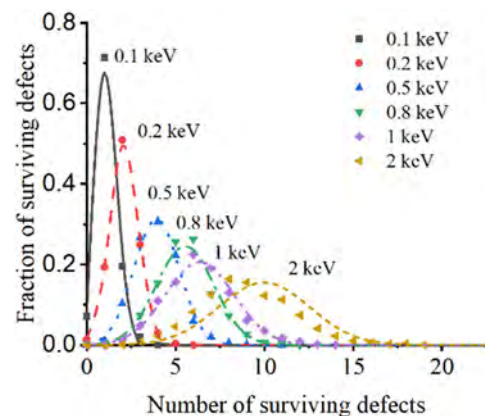


Fig. 1: PKA energy dependence of the number of point defects produced by displacement cascades.

100 eV, the average number of surviving point defects is in proportion to PKA energy with a constant standard deviation. For higher energies, on the other hand, the average and the standard deviation individually show power dependence on PKA energy. These PKA energy dependences of the average number of surviving point defects are consistent with those of the NRT and Bacon models for lower and higher PKA energies, respectively. Statistical characteristics of displacement cascades will help to describe the changes in the microstructure and mechanical properties of materials under irradiation.

3. Structural integrity assessment of reactor pressure vessels: A probabilistic risk evaluation

Reactor pressure vessels (RPVs) are an important component in nuclear power plants and function to keep nuclear fuel and radioactive materials confined. The structural integrity of RPVs has been verified by regulation through periodic and special inspections, where judgments are made as to whether regulations are satisfied. Unfortunately, however, the current judgments in Japan are made by only deterministic, and the degree of satisfaction is beyond their scope. In the present study, to quantify the degree of satisfaction, uncertainties in the structural integrity are assessed. Using the probability density distribution function of the stress intensity factor and that of the fracture toughness, the probability of the occurrence of the irradiation-induced brittle fracture of RPVs during pressurized thermal shock (PTS) events is evaluated and defined as an indicator representing fracture risks. The characteristics of the indicator are found to show that it increases significantly with the reactor operating time. This means that this indicator is more appropriate for representing aging risk than the conventional $\Delta DBTT$ (ductile-to-brittle transition temperature shift).

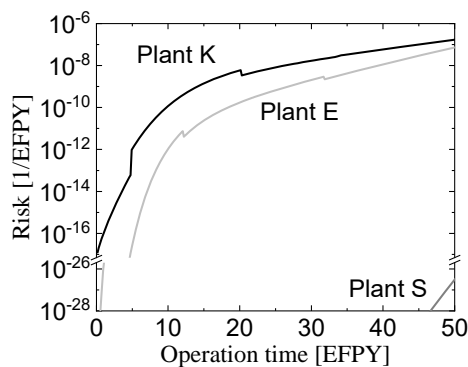


Fig. 2: The time evolutions of the predicted and corrected DBTT values and embrittlement risks for the three plants.

4. Effects of irradiation on microstructural evolution in materials and corresponding mechanical properties

Tungsten (W) is considered to be the primary

choice for the plasma facing materials (PFM) in fusion reactors due to its attractive combination of properties such as high melting point, good thermal conductivity, high creep resistance, good high-temperature strength and low vapor pressure. We have investigated the irradiation effect of tungsten (W), which is a candidate material for fusion divertor, using an ion accelerator (DuET: Fig. 3). We found that the microstructure evolution under ion irradiation depends on the crystal orientation using W single crystals with {001} and {011} surface orientation for ion-irradiation (Fig. 4). Defect zone depth is deeper in {001} crystal than in {011} crystal. The mechanism has been discussed with DFT, MD, and so on. The knowledge obtained in this study is fruitful for fusion divertor design and integrity. Moreover, we performed a systematic theoretical study of the interactions between transition metals (TM) elements and point defects in bcc W using density functional theory (DFT) calculations. The effects of transition metals elements on the microstructure evolution was discussed.

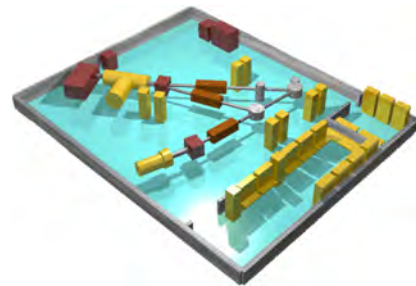


Fig. 3: Ion-accelerator (DuET)

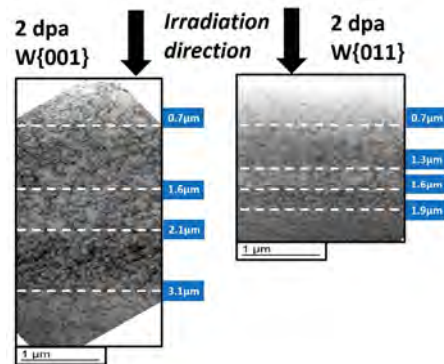


Fig. 4: TEM micrographs of W single crystals after irradiation

5. Application of AI technology to the image analysis for nuclear materials development

TEM image analysis of post-irradiation metals has often been conducted in the field of nuclear material development research, where an interpretation of images is different unfortunately from person to person. To avoid this gap, a new attempt is being made to apply the state-of-the-art AI technology to the image analysis. If this attempt progresses successfully, it should be possible to bridge the gap between the skill levels of skilled and novice users.

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Nano Optical Science Research Section

K. Matsuda, Professor

K. Shinokita, Assistant Professor

1. Introduction

We are working on basic and applied research of nano-materials from a viewpoint of optics and material science. Our research aims at exploring new physical and chemical phenomena leading to applications of novel nano-materials including carbon nanotubes, layered transition metal dichalcogenides, perovskite for efficient utilization of light energy and development of future optoelectronic devices with ultra-low energy consumption. Followings are main research achievements in the year of 2021.

1. Moiré exciton-phonon coupling in a $\text{WSe}_2/\text{MoSe}_2$ heterobilayer

The interference of two similar patterns is a universal concept in physics that plays a pivotal role in modern science and technology such as in gravitational wave detection, optical frequency combs, superconducting quantum interference devices (SQUIDs), and cold atoms in optical lattices. The moiré patterns of van der Waals heterostructures arising from interference of angular- or lattice-mismatched atomically thin materials with honeycomb structures, such as graphene and semiconducting transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs), have attracted increasing attention because of the potential for engineering a range of emergent quantum phenomena. Examples include superconductivity, ferromagnetism near $\frac{3}{4}$ filling, and correlated insulator phases in twisted bilayer graphene. In a two-dimensional (2D) semiconducting TMD heterostructure, the stacking of two different monolayer TMDs usually results in staggered type II band alignment, which causes separation of electrons and holes in different layers, or interlayer excitons (Coulomb-bound electron-hole pairs). The nature of the interlayer excitons is modulated by the moiré pattern because of the spatially varying atomic registry. The moiré pattern works as a periodic trap potential to confine the interlayer exciton in zero dimensions (0D) (moiré exciton, Fig. 1) and spatially organize the moiré-trapped excitons, which results in an array of quantum-dot-like 0D systems composed of a moiré exciton ensemble. In addition, the moiré period and interaction between the moiré excitons can be tailored by the stacking angle. Therefore, moiré exciton ensembles in periodic moiré potentials have potential for dense coherent quantum emitters and quantum simulation of many-body physics, which could result in a

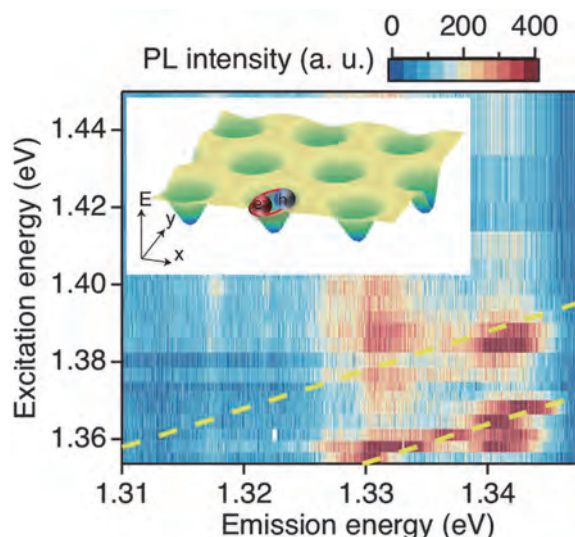


Fig. 1 2D PLE map of $\text{WSe}_2/\text{MoSe}_2$ heterobilayer, measured at low temperature. Dotted lines correspond to phonon resonances. Inset shows schematic of moiré exciton.

number of applications in quantum optics, including quantum dot lasers, entangled photon lasers, and Dicke superradiance.

The electronic, optical, and transport properties of solids are frequently dominated by electron-phonon or exciton-phonon interactions. Extensive works on exciton and phonon interactions in 2D materials and their van der Waals heterostructures have been performed. For instance, emergent interlayer exciton-phonon coupling was observed in a $\text{WSe}_2/h\text{-BN}$ heterostructure system, which provides important information for the generation and control of intriguing physical properties of 2D materials. The exciton-phonon interaction of the heterostructure can also be modified by the periodic moiré potential, which would pave a new way for control of diverse fascinating physical behaviours of 0D-like moiré excitons towards coherent quantum emitters and quantum simulation of many-body physics. To date, the signatures of moiré excitons have been optically studied by absorption and photoluminescence (PL) measurements, where the moiré exciton was confirmed by the appearance of sharp peaks in low-temperature PL spectra under low excitation power conditions, reflecting the trapping of excitons in the moiré potential. However, the interaction between the moiré exciton and phonon

have yet to be studied experimentally. To explore novel quantum phenomena in moiré superlattices, it is important to understand the moiré exciton-phonon interaction, which play a dominant role in the intriguing properties of moiré exciton ensembles and quantum applications.

Here, we study the moiré exciton and phonon interaction in a twisted $\text{WSe}_2/\text{MoSe}_2$ heterobilayer based on near-resonant photoluminescence excitation (PLE) spectroscopy, taking advantage of extraction of coupling of specific moiré exciton to phonon. The experimentally observed PL spectrum strongly depending on the excitation energy shows highly selective excitation of the ground state of the moiré exciton at phonon resonances. On the other hand, the negligibly small off-resonant PLE signal in the interlayer region suggests δ -function discrete energy levels, which reflects density of states of a 0D-like system for the interlayer moiré exciton. In addition, the excitation power dependence of the PL spectra reveals the moiré exciton dynamics between different potential minima with discrete energy levels via the resonant phonon scattering process.

Our results shed light on new aspects of moiré exciton and phonon coupling and lay the groundwork to explore quantum phenomena in moiré superlattices for quantum emitters with extremely low threshold lasing and so on.

2. Experimental Evidence of Magnon-Moiré Trion Complex in Monolayer Semiconductor and Antiferromagnet vdW Heterostructures

Since the discovery of 2D layered ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic materials, the intriguing magnetic properties of 2D materials have attracted considerable interest in the research field of material science. Among 2D layered magnetic materials, transition metal phosphorous dichalcogenides (TMPX_3 ; TM = Mn, Ni, Fe, Co; X = S, Se) have been extensively studied as a model system of layered magnetic materials. For instance, free excitons coupled to magnons were reported in both bulk antiferromagnetic MnPS_3 and heterostructures composed of semiconducting MoSe_2 and antiferromagnetic MnPSe_3 . Moreover, novel excitons with an ultra-narrow PL peak were found in bulk NiPS_3 ; these excitons arise from the many-body states of Zhang–Rice singlets and reach a coherent state assisted by the antiferromagnetic order. However, the interaction between moiré excitonic states (excitons and trions) and magnetic elementary excitations in magnetic materials has yet to be experimentally studied. To explore novel quantum phenomena in moiré superlattices, it is important to prove the existence of moiré excitonic states (excitons and trions) coupled with magnetic elementary excitations, which would give rise to the intriguing properties of moiré excitonic systems with magnetic functionalities.

Here, we report the emergence of intralayer trions

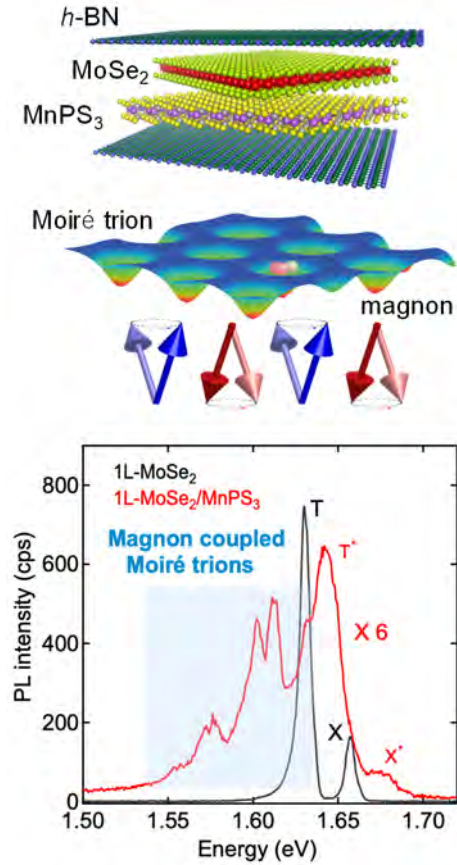


Fig. 2 Schematic of $\text{MoSe}_2/\text{MnPS}_3$ vdW heterostructure. Schematic of magnon-moiré charged exciton (trion) complex. Low temperature photoluminescence spectra of reference monolayer MoSe_2 and $\text{MoSe}_2/\text{MnPS}_3$ vdW heterostructure. Exciton and trion related peaks are denoted as X and T, respectively.

localized in the moiré potentials formed by twisted monolayer MoSe_2 and antiferromagnetic MnPS_3 vdW heterostructure. We carefully investigated the low-temperature PL spectra of the vdW heterostructure and found additional fine spectral structures on the low-energy side of the coupled magnon–trion peaks below the Néel temperature (78 K) of MnPS_3 (Figure 2). The fine spectral structures with long lifetime and coherence time are assigned to localized intralayer trion–magnon complexes in the moiré potentials (moiré trion–magnon complexes), which makes the moiré excitons different from those frequently observed in bilayer semiconducting TMD heterostructures, implying the appearance of magnetic moiré excitonic states.

We envisage that novel vdW heterostructures characterized by a combination of monolayer semiconductor TMDs and antiferromagnetic TMPX_3 will reveal the existence of magnetic moiré excitonic states. The precise energies and light emission intensities of these magnetic moiré-excitonic states can be tuned and controlled by applying external magnetic fields. Therefore, these states also provide a good platform toward for future application of quantum emitters with magnetic functionalities.

Collaboration Works

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Clean Energy Conversion Research Section
(Two-dimensional tunnel FET)

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1. Introduction

For the 2D/2D interfacial properties in TFET, the defect-free clean heterointerface is critical for obtaining the BTBT dominant current under reverse bias at the diode. Although the BTBT current has been demonstrated at low temperatures [1], thermally activated behavior often appears at higher temperatures near RT. That is, the generation current governs the total current, resulting in degradation of the SS at RT. This suggests that interface states exist even for 2D/2D interfaces. In general, high-*k* top gate oxides have been used in most of 2D TFETs reported thus far to enhance the gate capacitance. However, how the quality of the 2D/2D interface is affected by the deposition of high-*k* oxides has not been revealed yet. Therefore, comparisons between high-*k* and *h*-BN gate insulators should be carried out systematically in the same 2D TFET system because the use of *h*-BN in TFETs has been quite limited.

In this work, we systematically studied all 2D heterostructure TFETs produced by combining the type III *n*-MoS₂/*p*⁺-MoS₂ heterostructure with the *h*-BN top gate in order to achieve SS values less than 60 mVdec⁻¹ at RT.

2. Strategy in 2D/2D TFET structure

There are three strategies to further reduce the SS values: (i) Recently, we have discovered that the deposition of Al₂O₃ top gate oxide on the MoS₂ channel increases the interface states density due to the introduction of strain in the MoS₂ channel on the *h*-BN substrate, as shown in Fig. 1.[2] Therefore, an *h*-BN top gate insulator was adopted to benefit from the electrically inert interface in 2D heterostructure TFETs. (ii) The *p*⁺-MoS₂ source was used because the *E_F* of *p*⁺-MoS₂ cannot be modulated due to the degenerately high doping of the *p*⁺-MoS₂. (iii) According to the transmission probability calculated for carrier transport through the BTBT barrier,[3] the *E_G* for the channel should be larger than that for the source to keep the off current low but *E_G* also should be as small as possible to increase the transmission probability. Therefore, the 1L and 3L MoS₂ channels were compared. Based on these three considerations, all 2D heterostructure TFETs were fabricated to achieve SS values lower than 60 mVdec⁻¹.

3. Results & Discussion

Fig. 2 shows a schematic (a) and an optical micrograph (b) of a typical *h*-BN/*n*-MoS₂/*p*⁺-MoS₂/*h*-BN all 2D heterostructure TFET. The heterostructure

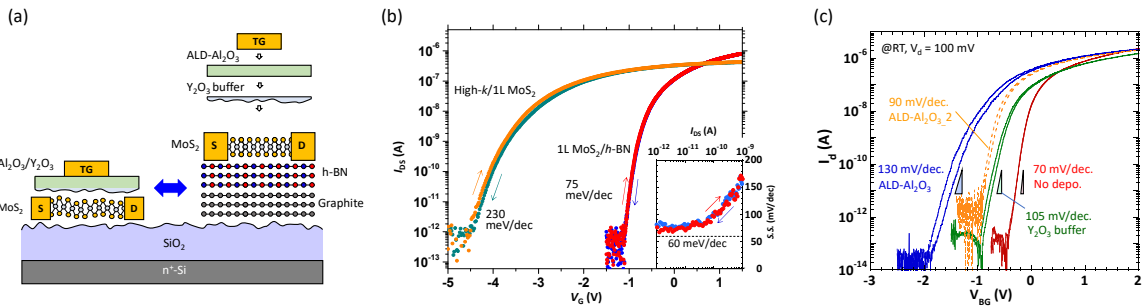


Fig. 1 a) Schematic illustration of two kinds of 1L-MoS₂ FET. One is FET with high-*k* top gate insulator, the other is heterostructure FET with *h*-BN and graphite. b) Transfer characteristics of two kinds of 1L-MoS₂ FET. The heterostructure MoS₂ FET shows better SS value. c) Transfer characteristics of 1L-MoS₂/h-BN FET before top-gate deposition (red), after Y₂O₃ buffer layer deposition (green), and after ALD-Al₂O₃ deposition (blue). Initially, back gate heterostructure 1L-MoS₂ FET was prepared and then top gate was deposited. The transfer characteristics were measured through the back gate. The back side MoS₂/h-BN interface was degraded by the top gate deposition, suggesting that top gate deposition may degrade

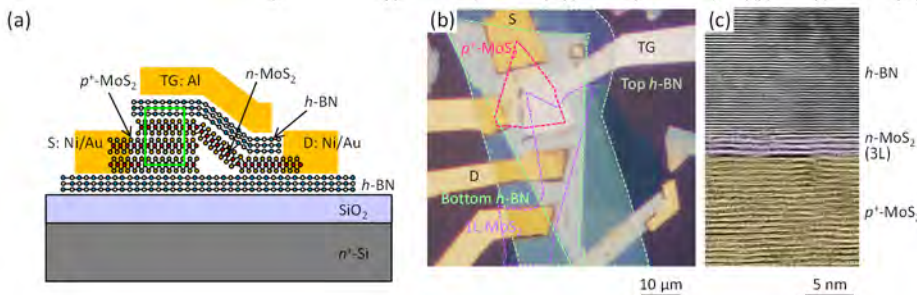


Fig. 2 a) Schematic illustration and b) optical micrograph of all 2D heterostructure TFET. c) Cross sectional TEM image of all 2D heterostructure at the solid rectangular in a). The number of MoS₂ layers is 3.

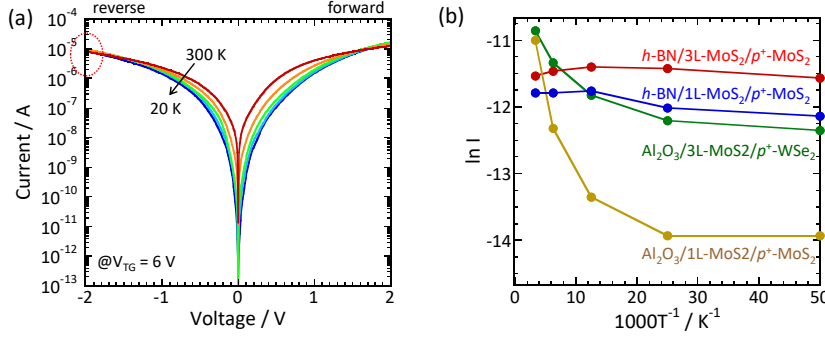


Fig. 3 a) Diode properties in the 3L- n -MoS₂/ p^+ -WSe₂ heterostructure at $V_{TG} = 6$ V and different temperatures (20, 40, 80, 160, and 300 K). b) Arrhenius plot of the current at the reverse bias of -2 V for different heterostructures.

device was prepared by pinpoint pickup and bubble free assembly technique.[4] The typical thickness for the top gate h -BN insulator and the p^+ -MoS₂ source are ~ 15 nm and ~ 30 nm, respectively. The atomically sharp gate stack interfaces are clearly seen in the cross-sectional TEM image of Fig. 2c since all of the 2D materials are stable in air. As was expected, the diode properties of the all 2D heterostructure TFET with the 3L- n -MoS₂ channel in Fig. 3a shows the type III band alignment at $V_{TG} = 6$ V. The negative differential resistance (NDR) trend at the forward side is not visible. This could be explained by the suppression of the diffusion current due to the larger barrier between the conduction band minimum for p^+ -MoS₂ and the valence band maximum for the n -MoS₂ channel because the E_G of bulk MoS₂ (~ 1.4 eV) is larger than the E_G of bulk WSe₂ (~ 1.2 eV). An Arrhenius plot of the current at the reverse bias of -2 V is compared with other heterostructures in Fig. 3b. It should be noted that all four heterostructure TFETs exhibit type III band alignment. For the h -BN top gate heterostructure devices with the 1L and 3L MoS₂ channels, temperature-independent behavior is evident over the entire temperature range, indicating that BTBT is dominant even at RT. This is quite promising for TFET operation with low SS values at RT. On the other hand, when Al₂O₃ was used as the top gate insulator, thermally activated behavior at high temperatures was clearly observed regardless of the source crystal. These comparisons indicate that the trap-related generation-recombination current [5] and/or the trap-assisted tunneling current under reverse bias are drastically suppressed by the successful integration of the electrically inert interface in the 2D heterostructure TFET.

Finally, the transfer characteristics of the 2D heterostructure TFETs at the reverse bias of -2 V at RT are shown in Fig. 4a. The estimated SS values are shown as a function of I_D in Fig. 4b. For the 3L- n -MoS₂ channel, low SS value comparable with 60 mVdec⁻¹ of the Boltzmann limit was achieved at RT. Since the SS value for the 1L- n -MoS₂ channel was over 100 mV/dec, the smaller E_G of the 3L- n -MoS₂ channel was preferable. However, leakage current contributions should be considered carefully since artificially low SS values are often reported. We have confirmed that I_D overlaps with I_S for the 3L- n -MoS₂ channel because there is no gate leakage, which supports that the SS value is low comparable to 60 mVdec⁻¹ at RT.

4. Summary

The key finding regarding the quality of the heterointerface is that producing the defect-free clean heterointerface via integration of the h -BN top gate provides the BTBT dominant current even at RT. All 2D heterostructure TFETs produced by combining the type III n -MoS₂/ p^+ -MoS₂ heterostructure with the h -BN top gate insulator resulted in low SS values at RT.

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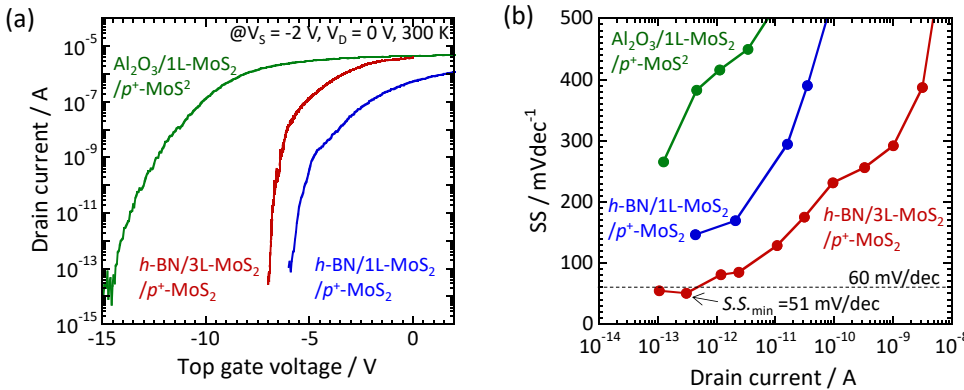


Fig. 4 a) Transfer characteristics for the three different heterostructure TFETs. b) SS as a function of I_D for the three different heterostructure TFETs.

Clean Energy Conversion Research Section

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(Hokkaido University)

1. Introduction

Fusion reactor is one of the key technologies to achieve the zero-emission energy [1]. Hydrogen isotopes (hydrogen: H, deuterium: D, and tritium: T) are used as fuels in the reactor, but the present production process requires high energy consumption. For solving this problem, we have proposed the unique separation method, combined electrolysis and fuel cell (CEFC) [2]. Hydrogen and oxygen gases generated by water electrolysis are used for fuel cell as the power generation, while the hydrogen isotope separation is conducted. In fuel cell, the heavy isotopes are concentrated in the produced water, which can be returned to the electrolyte during the electrolysis [3].

The D separation by the aqueous solution and polymer electrolyte electrolysis has been reported [4]. It is suggested that the separation efficiency depends on the electrochemical kinetic factors, *ex.* hydrogen evolution reaction (HER). However, there are few papers about the fundamental study.

In molten salt, the HER occurs through the oxidation reactions of hydride ions (H^-) and deuteride ions (D^-), which is different from that in aqueous solution systems. That is, due to the difference in the HER mechanism, the high isotope separation can be expected. In addition, the electrochemical reaction rate can be increased due to the high temperature. The low overvoltage reduces the energy consumption of the separation system. Therefore, in the present project, a novel method using molten salt electrolysis is focused and the D separation is studied.

2. Electrochemical Measurement

In this study, experiments were conducted in the three electrodes system (Fig. 1). The chemicals were dried in vacuum environment at 723 K for 24 hours. They were mixed with the ratio of $LiCl:KCl = 58.5:41.5$ mol% and melted at 673 K. Three different electrode materials (Mo, Pt, Zn) were used for the working electrode, and a glassy carbon rod or an Al wire was used for the counter electrode. The reference electrode was an Al-Li alloy in an electrochemically formed ($\alpha + \beta$) two-phase coexisting state. The potential was calibrated against the Li^+/Li electrode. The LiH and LiD were added to the molten salt at 1.0 mol% and 0.2-1.0 mol%, respectively.

Cyclic voltammograms (CV) with a several of potential scanning speeds was measured. Figure 2 shows the CV of the Mo electrode when LiD (0.4 mol%) was added in the LiCl-KCl molten salt. When the potential was scanned in the anodic direction, the

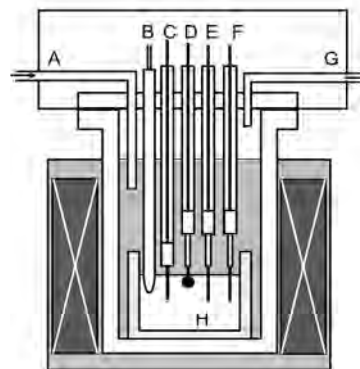


Fig. 1 Schematic illustration of experimental setup; (A) Ar gas inlet, (B) thermocouple, (C) counter electrode, (D) working electrode, (E) Al-Li wire reference electrode, (F) Al wire counter electrode, (G) gas outlet, (H) electrolyte.

oxidation peak associated with the deuterium evolution reaction (DER) was observed at 0.7-0.8 V vs. Li^+/Li . As the scanning speed was increased in the range of 0.2~5.0 $V s^{-1}$, the peak current increased and the peak shape was clearer. When the potential reached at 1.0 V, the scan direction was reversed to examine the reduction reaction. Interestingly unlike HER, the reduction current was hardly measured in DER. This may be explained by the low solubility of D_2 gas in the molten salt.

3. D Separation

The hydrogen gas during the potentiostatic electrolysis was discharged from the outlet with Ar

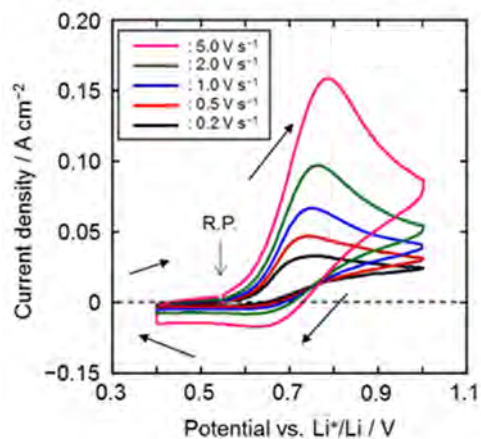


Fig. 2 Cyclic voltammograms of Mo electrode in LiCl-KCl-LiD (0.4 mol%) at various scanning rate.

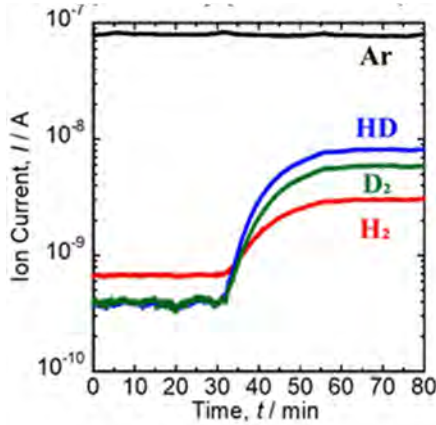


Fig. 3 QMS results of the hydrogen gas evolved from Mo electrode.

carrier gas. It was introduced into a quadrupole mass spectrometer (QMS) for the gas analysis. Figure 3 shows the result of the QMS analysis, when the electrolysis was conducted at 0.7 V. The concentration of LiH and LiD was 1.0 mol%. The gas components were consisted of mass number $m = 2$ (H_2), $m = 3$ (HD), and $m = 4$ (D_2). Among the three gas mixtures, the ratio of HD gas was the largest, as seen in the water electrolysis in 10 at% D [4].

To quantitatively evaluate the separation, the separation factor, α , was defined in Eq. (1),

$$\alpha = \{[H]/[D]\}_g / \{[H]/[D]\}_m \quad (1)$$

where [L] is atomic concentration of the hydrogen isotopes (H and D), subscript of “g” is gas and “m” is molten salt. The atomic concentration in the hydrogen gas was calculated from the ion current of QMS by following equation,

$$[H]/[D] = [(i_{H_2} \times 2 + i_{HD}) / (i_{D_2} \times 2 + i_{HD})] \quad (2)$$

where i_x is the ion current of gas x.

The α value of the electrode materials are summarized in Fig. 4. For Mo and Pt electrodes, α was

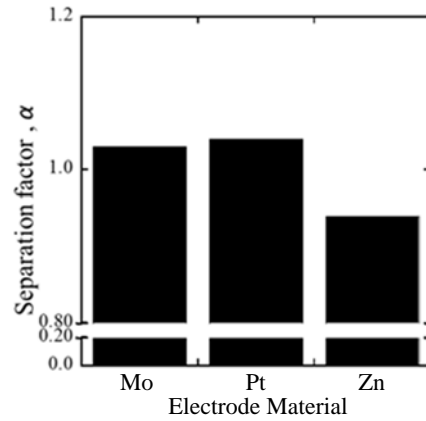


Fig. 4 Bar graph of separation factor at several electrode materials; Mo, Pt, and Zn.

slightly larger than 1.0. This suggested that D was enriched in the electrolyte, as done by water electrolysis. On the other hand, for Zn electrode, the α value less than 1.0. That is, D was enriched in the generated hydrogen gas. This phenomenon was inverse against the well-known electrolysis process.

5. Summary

The hydrogen isotope separation by the molten salt electrolysis showed different behavior from the water electrolysis. This suggests that not only kinetic factors related to electrode reactions, but also the state of the dissolved gas differs among the isotopes. In the future, we will investigate the reduction reaction of the hydrogen isotopes on several electrode materials.

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Chemical Reaction Complex Processes Research Section

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 T. Kodaki, Associate Professor
 K. Kawaguchi, Program-Specific Associate Professor
 T. Yamamoto, Assistant Professor

1. Introduction

In this research section, we study on electrochemistry, materials science, genetic engineering and protein engineering. We also apply them to the developments of efficient metal plating processes, new secondary batteries and efficient bioethanol production processes.

In this fiscal year, we have researched an electrodeposition process of tungsten, sodium and potassium secondary batteries using ionic liquids, and an efficient bioethanol production process using ionic liquids.

2. Development of New Plating Processes of Tungsten Using Molten Salt Electrolytes

Tungsten is a metal with excellent properties such as high heat resistance, high strength, and low thermal expansion. Therefore, it is used in a variety of applications, including carbide tools, heat sinks, and divertors in nuclear fusion reactors. However, due to its hardness and brittleness, tungsten is difficult to process into complex shapes and thin films. If tungsten can be plated on substrates with good processability, the range of applications will be greatly expanded. Thus, electrodeposition of tungsten in high-temperature molten salts has been investigated as one of the promising plating methods [1–3].

We have already reported the electrodeposition of α -W films in molten KF-KCl-WO_3 at 923 K and mixed phase films of α -W and β -W in molten CsF-CsCl-WO_3 at 873 K [4]. We also reported that β -W films with mirror-like surface were electrodeposited in molten CsF-CsCl-WO_3 at 773 K [5]. As continuing research, in this fiscal year, we investigated the effect of bath temperature on the smoothness and crystal structure of W films electrodeposited from molten CsF-CsCl-WO_3 .

Fig. 1 shows the samples obtained at 6–25 mA cm^{-2} and 773–923 K. At 25 mA cm^{-2} and 773 K, no W deposits were obtained due to co-deposition of Cs metal fog because the potential during electrolysis was close to 0 V with respect to Cs^+/Cs potential. Under other conditions, gray or silver-colored deposits were obtained. The results of XRD analysis showed that all electrodeposits were metallic W. Interestingly, only β -W was detected below 823 K, both α -W and β -W were detected at 873 K, and only α -W was detected at 923 K. This indicates that the crystal

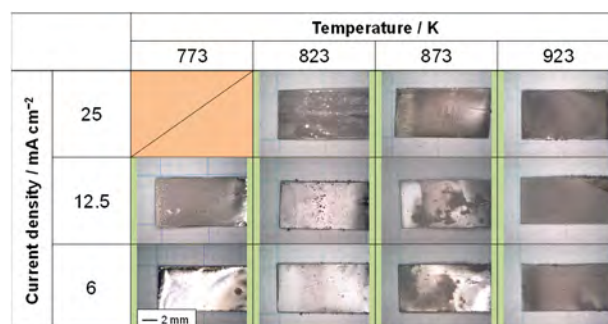


Fig. 1. Optical images of the samples obtained by galvanostatic electrolysis of Cu plate electrodes at various current densities and temperatures in molten CsF-CsCl-WO_3 (1.0 mol%). Charge density: 90 C cm^{-2} .

structure of W electrodeposited varies with bath temperature. At 6 mA cm^{-2} and 773 K, a mirror-like surface was obtained, indicating that the surface of the electrodeposited W film was highly smooth. The reason for the smoother surface at lower bath temperatures is speculated to be due to the crystal structure of β -W and the suppression of crystal growth.

3. Development of Sodium and Potassium Secondary Batteries Using Ionic Liquid Electrolytes

The establishment of zero-carbon society requires the popularization of renewable energy and large-scaled energy storage devices. Although current lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) have been considered to the candidates because of their high energy densities, scarce lithium resources and flammable organic solvents are used, possibly leading to a major barrier to further distribution as large-scaled batteries. Our group has focused on sodium and potassium secondary batteries using ionic liquid electrolytes because sodium and potassium resources are abundant in the earth's crust and ionic liquids possess high safety such as negligible volatility and non-flammability [6,7].

In this fiscal year, we investigated charge–discharge performance of Hard carbon/ NaCrO_2 full cell using $\text{Na[FSA]-[C}_3\text{C}_1\text{pyrr][FSA]}$ ionic liquid electrolytes (FSA = bis(fluorosulfonyl)amide, $\text{C}_3\text{C}_1\text{pyrr} = N$ -methyl- N -propylpyrrolidinium) with various Na^+ concentrations ($C(\text{Na}^+) = 1.0\text{--}2.2 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$). As reported in our previous

study [6], the highly concentrated electrolytes conferred the superior rate capability. Then, *in-situ* Raman spectroscopy was attempted, revealing that the Na⁺ ion shortage hardly occurred at the electrode/electrolyte interface for the highly concentrated electrolytes. We also tried to improve the performance of graphite negative electrode in K[FTA]-[C₄C₁pyrr][FTA] ionic liquid (FTA = (fluorosulfonyl)(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)amide, C₄C₁pyrr = *N*-butyl-*N*-methylpyrrolidinium). By changing the binder material from PVdF to CMC (PVdF = Polyvinylidene difluoride, CMC = Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose), initial reversible capacity and coulombic efficiency increased from 227 to 267 mAh g⁻¹ and 55 to 85%, respectively. As shown in Fig. 2, stable cycle performance was obtained for 30 cycles with negligible capacity decline.

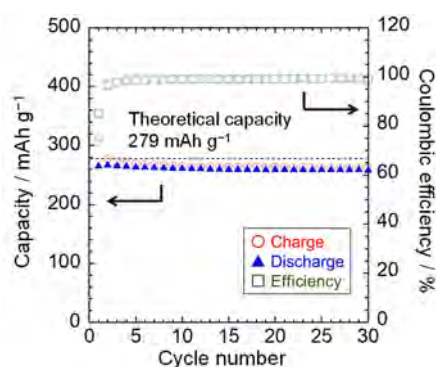


Fig. 2. Cycling properties of a K/graphite cell using K[FTA]-[C₄C₁pyrr][FTA] electrolyte and 313 K. Current rate: 0.1C rate (= 27.9 mA g⁻¹). Binder: CMC.

4. Efficient Bioethanol Production from Lignocellulosic Biomass Using Ionic Liquid

Pretreatment with ionic liquid was known to be improved yields of sugars from lignocellulosic biomass. On the other hand, ionic liquid was deleterious for growth of microorganisms including yeast.

We have recently isolated several mutant strains of yeast with enhanced tolerance to an ionic liquid, 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium chloride ([Bmim]Cl) in order to improve fermentation efficiency in the presence of ionic liquid by means of “adaptive laboratory evolution” [8] and conventional UV irradiation.

In this fiscal year, we first performed whole genome analysis of mutant strains obtained by conventional UV irradiation to identify genetic mutations. ATP synthase genes (*ATP1* and *ATP2*) were identified as candidates for mutations to improve ionic liquid tolerance, in addition to genes already known to confer ionic liquid tolerance, *PTK2* and *SKY1*. *ATP1* and *SKY1* or *ATP2* and *PTK2* mutations were introduced into the recombinant xylose fermenting yeast (SK-N1). These strains showed ionic liquid tolerance to growth (Fig. 3) and ethanol fermentation (Fig. 4), conforming that *ATP1* or *ATP2* mutations, along with *SKY1* or *PTK2* mutations, emphasized ionic liquid

tolerance.

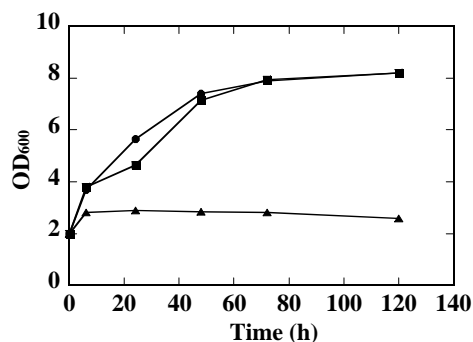


Fig. 3. Growth in the presence of 300 mM [Bmim]Cl. *ATP1* and *SKY1* mutated strain: square, *ATP2* and *PTK2* mutated strain: circle, SK-N1: triangle.

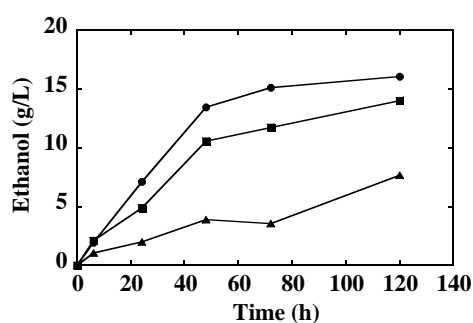


Fig. 4. Ethanol fermentation from glucose and xylose containing medium in the presence of 300 mM [Bmim]Cl. *ATP1* and *SKY1* mutated strain: square, *ATP2* and *PTK2* mutated strain: circle, SK-N1: triangle.

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Collaboration Works

大垣英明, 森井孝, 片平正人, 野平俊之, モンゴル国立大学, インドネシア大学, フィリピン大学ディリマン校, ベトナム国家大学ハノイ校, ラオス国立大学, 王立ブノンペン大学, アジア新興国産天然資源を由来とする機能性物質創生のための高度分析研究拠点の形成

Financial Support

1. Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research

野平俊之, 基盤研究(A), 液体亜鉛陰極を利用した太陽電池用シリコンの新製造法

野平俊之, 挑戦的研究(萌芽), 二酸化炭素を原料とした革新的常圧ダイヤモンド電解合成法の開発

山本貴之, 若手研究, 反応電位に立脚したデュアルカーボン電池の構築

華航, 特別研究員奨励費, 熔融フッ化物電解と合金隔膜を用いた希土類金属の高精度・高速分離プロセスの構築

2. Others

野平俊之, 新エネルギー・産業技術総合開発機構, 高効率な資源循環システムを構築するためのリサイクル技術の研究開発事業

野平俊之, 国際協力機構, JICA 研修員受入

小瀧努, 科学技術振興機構, サトウキビ収穫廃棄物の統合バイオリファイナリー

山本貴之, (公財) 高橋産業経済研究財団, 汎用元素を用いた高安全性を有する大容量二次電池の開発

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Molecular Nanotechnology Research Section

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S. Nobusue, Assistant Professor

1. Introduction

Nanotechnology is essential for highly efficient energy use. Our group studies the basics of assembling small molecules into the advanced materials and devices in energy sector with high efficiency. We have already developed several unique techniques which are totally new molecular assembling methodology such as 'electro-chemical Epitaxial Polymerization' and 'Two-Zone Chemical Vapor Deposition (2Z-CVD)' which enable to produce molecular wires on metal surface from small molecules. By using these techniques, organic electronic devices such as field-effect transistors and organic solar cells will be developed.

Main research achievements in Molecular Nanotechnology Research Section in 2021 are described below.

2. Bottom-Up On-Surface Synthesis of Edge-functionalized Graphene Nanoribbon

Graphene nanoribbons (GNRs) have shown great potential for electronics, optoelectronics, and photonics. These properties strongly depend on width and edge structure of them. Therefore, precisely controlled width and edge structure are required for desired properties. Bottom-up synthesis of GNRs is a one of suitable method to satisfy these requirements because of definition of their edge structures and widths by the shape of precursors. Atomically precise synthesis of armchair-edged GNRs have already been achieved under ultra-high vacuum (UHV) condition. However, given GNRs in this method were low yield and density was still low. Therefore, it was difficult to develop organic electronic devices with them. To develop devices, high-yield fabrication of assembled GNR films, isolation, and device fabrication are required.

We have developed 2Z-CVD to produce densely packed, parallelly aligned self-assembled GNRs on Au(111) under low vacuum condition of 1 Torr from halogenated polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) precursors. This technique successfully produced a series of armchair-edged GNRs in high yield. Attractive features of this method originate from an independent temperature-control of radical-generation process

(zone 1) and the growth process (zone 2), which afforded GNRs in high yield without using UHV conditions. The precursor was sublimated to the Au(111) substrate in zone 2 by passing through zone 1 in a quartz tube. The mechanism is supposed to involve radical generation in zone 1, polymerization of the radicals on the Au(111) substrate in zone 2, and subsequent dehydrogenation to form GNRs.¹ Additionally, we demonstrate a new concept of 'conformation-controlled surface catalysis'; the 2Z-CVD of the 'Z-bar-linkage' precursor, which represents two terphenyl units are linked like a 'Z', exhibiting flexible geometry that allows it to adopt chiral conformations with height-asymmetry on a Au(111) surface, results in the efficient formation of acene-type GNRs with a width of 1.45 nm through optimized cascade reactions. These cascade reactions on surface include the production of self-assembled homochiral polymers in a chain with a planar conformation, followed by efficient stepwise dehydrogenation via a conformation-controlled mechanism. Our proposed concept analogous to the biological catalyst, enzyme, is useful for the fabrication of new nanocarbon materials.²

Recently, GNRs having asymmetrically functional substitution at each edge have attracted much attention due to realization of ferroelectric or ferromagnetic property predicted by theory. However, it has been difficult to produce them because of decomposition of functional substitution at high temperature process during dehydrogenation reaction. To overcome the problem, we have developed low temperature GNR growth method with hydrogen acceptor.

After producing precursor polymers using 2Z-CVD method with Z-bar-linkage having different substitution at each edge as precursor, hydrogen acceptor was fed into the reactor (evacuated quartz tube), which promote dehydrogenation reaction resulting in giving asymmetrical GNRs without decomposition of functional substitution at lower temperature. Then, we have succeeded in direct observation of asymmetrical GNRs produced on Au(111) with low-temperature scanning tunneling microscope.

3. Solution Synthesis of Asymmetrically Function-

alized Graphene Nanoribbon toward the Application for Functional Materials

Solution-phase synthesis is one of the most promising strategies to obtain well-defined graphene nanoribbon (GNR) with tunable electronic and optical properties. Asymmetrically edge-functionalized GNR have attracted a great deal of interest in view of the relationship between the unique structure and properties. Several theoretical predictions have been made to change the properties of these systems through edge modifications. Introduction of different functional groups to the edges of GNR backbone would offer a promising strategy to exhibit new properties. Although the solution-phase syntheses of GNRs having symmetric substitutions have already reported, our approach, however, has remained unexplored.

We previously reported the on-surface synthesis of acene-type GNR from the Z-shaped precursor which consists of two terphenyl units. Inspired by this work, we envisioned that the asymmetrically substituted GNRs would be obtained from asymmetrically Z-shaped precursor in the solution synthesis. However, the desired product was not obtained probably due to the skeletal rearrangement in the oxidative dehydrogenation reaction. To develop the synthetic method for asymmetrically edge-functionalized GNR, we have synthesized nanographenes as a model compound and GNRs from Z-shaped precursor by Pd-catalyzed cyclization followed by oxidative dehydrogenation reactions.

Based on this method, we investigated the synthesis of GNR having symmetric substitutions. As a result, we have developed the synthetic method via head-to-tail polymerization followed by cyclization with Pd-catalyzed bond formations and oxidative dehydrogenation reactions. This method is applicable to the preparation of asymmetric GNR having different functional groups at opposite side of the edges. We developed this method for the asymmetric GNR. The relationship between the functionalization of edge structures and their properties was identified by absorption spectra.

As an additional step, we designed asymmetric functional GNR. Asymmetrically functionalized and sterically hindered GNRs adopt twisted conformation and have dipolar moment along long axis by asymmetrically modifying both edges. We hypothesized that the orientation of the twisted direction would be controlled by applying an electric field. We succeeded in the preparation of helically twisted GNR with modified synthetic methods. As a result, when the positive and negative electric fields were applied to asymmetrically-functionalized GNR-doped liquid crystal, inversions of the CD signal were observed. These results indicated that the helical switching take place by applying electric field.

5. Manifold dynamic non-covalent interactions for

steering molecular assembly and cyclization

Non-covalent interactions that govern many chemical and biological processes is crucial for the design of supramolecular and controlling molecular assemblies and their chemical transformations. However, the characterization of weak interactions in complex molecular architectures at the single bond level has been a longstanding challenge.

we employed bond-resolved scanning probe microscopy combined with an exhaustive structural search algorithm and quantum chemistry calculations to elucidate multiple non-covalent interactions that control the cohesive molecular clustering of well-designed precursor molecules and their chemical reactions. The presence of two flexible bromo-triphenyl moieties in the precursor leads to the assembly of distinct non-planar dimer and trimer clusters by manifold non-covalent interactions, including hydrogen bonding, halogen bonding, C-H $\cdots\pi$ and lone pair $\cdots\pi$ interactions. The dynamic nature of these weak interactions allows for transformation of the arrangement of monomers in the assembled clusters as molecular density increases, which alters the reaction pathways in the subsequent on-surface synthesis of cyclized products. Our findings highlight a vital route for controlling on-surface supramolecular assemblies and steering their chemical transformations through manipulation of manifold dynamic non-covalent interactions.³

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Biofunctional Chemistry Research Section

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1. Introduction

A transition to renewable energy technologies requires new chemistry to learn from nature. Nature has developed fantastic solutions to convert the solar energy to the chemical energy and to utilize them in the exceptionally efficient manners for almost 3 billion years. It is our challenge to understand the efficient bioenergetic processes of nature and to construct bio-inspired energy utilization systems. The research interests in our group focus on the design of biomacromolecules and their assemblies for molecular recognition, catalysis and signal transduction in water, the solvent of life. We take synthetic, organic chemical, biochemical and biophysical approaches to understand the biological molecular recognition and chemical reactions. Proteins and protein/nucleic acids assemblies are explored to realize biomimetic function of biological systems, such as visualization of cellular signals by fluorescent biosensors, directed self-assembly of peptides and proteins to build up nanobiomaterials, tailoring artificial receptors and enzymes based on the complex of RNA and a peptide or a protein, and reconstitution of the functional assemblies of receptors and enzymes on the nanoarchitectures. Followings are main research achievements in fiscal year 2021.

2. Dynamic shape transformation of a DNA scaffold applied for an enzyme nanocarrier

In this study, a three-dimensional DNA scaffold was designed to enable a dynamic shape transition from an open plate-like structure to its closed state of a hexagonal prism structure. A dimeric enzyme xylitol dehydrogenase (XDH) was assembled on the DNA scaffold in its open state in a high loading yield. The enzyme loaded scaffold was subsequently transformed to its closed state by the addition of short DNA closing keys. The enzyme encapsulated in the closed state displayed comparable activity to that in the open state, ensuring that the catalytic activity of enzyme was well maintained in the DNA nanocarrier (Fig. 1).

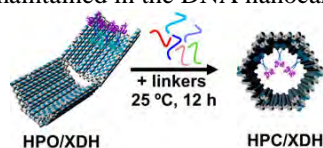


Fig. 1 Schemes representing transformation of XDH-loaded 3D DNA scaffold.

3. Conditional dependence of enzyme cascade reaction efficiency on the inter-enzyme distance

Cascade enzymes in cellular metabolic reactions often suffer from unfavorable kinetics of upstream and downstream enzymes. The kinetic parameters of such sequential enzymes are suggested to be critical in considering the inter-enzyme distance dependence of the cascade efficiencies. In this work, this issue is addressed by evaluating the reaction kinetics of imbalanced cascade enzymes.

An enzyme cascade of XDH and xylulose kinase (XK), derived from the xylose metabolic pathway, was constructed on a 3D DNA scaffold with a dynamic shape transition ability as described above. Evaluation of the cascade reaction efficiencies in the open and closed states revealed little or no inter-enzyme distance dependence, presumably due to the far larger catalytic constant of the downstream enzyme (Fig. 2). The inter-enzyme distance was not the dominant factor for cascade efficiency when the kinetic parameters of the cascade enzymes were imbalanced with the highly efficient downstream enzyme.

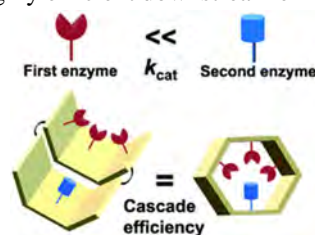


Fig. 2 Schematic representations of the cascade reaction of XDH and XK from a part of xylose metabolic pathway was loaded on 3D DNA scaffold.

4. Tuning the reactivity of a substrate for SNAP-Tag expands its application for recognition driven DNA-protein conjugation

Recognition-driven modification has been emerging as a novel approach to modifying biomolecular targets of interest site-specifically and efficiently. Protein modular adaptors (MAs) are the ideal reaction model for recognition-driven modification of DNA as they consist of both a sequence-specific DNA-binding domain and a self-ligating protein-tag. Coupling a DNA recognition by DNA-binding domain and a chemoselective reaction of protein tag could provide a

highly efficient sequence-specific reaction. However, a MA consisting of a reactive protein-tag and its substrate, for example, SNAP-tag and benzyl guanine, revealed rather nonselective reaction with DNA. Therefore, new substrates of SNAP-tag have been designed to realize sequence-selective rapid crosslinking reactions of MA with SNAP-tag (Fig. 3). The reactions of substrates with SNAP-tag were verified by kinetic analyses to enable the sequence selective crosslinking reaction of MA.

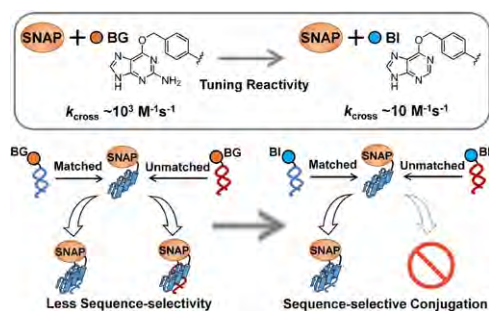


Fig. 3 An illustration of newly designed substrate of SNAP-tag to realize sequence-selective rapid crosslinking by MAs with SNAP-tag.

5. A facile combinatorial approach to construct a ratiometric fluorescent sensor: application for the real-time sensing of cellular pH changes

Realtime monitoring of the cellular environment, such as the intracellular pH, in a defined cellular space provides a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics processes in a living cell. Considering the limitation of spatial resolution in conventional microscopy measurements, multiple types of fluorophores assembled within that space would behave as a single fluorescent probe molecule. Such a character of microscopic measurements enables a much more flexible combinatorial design strategy in developing fluorescent probes for given targets. Nanomaterials with sizes smaller than the microscopy spatial resolution provide a scaffold to assemble several types of fluorophores with a variety of optical characteristics, therefore enabling a convenient strategy for designing fluorescent pH sensors. In this study, fluorescein (CF) and tetramethylrhodamine (CR) were assembled on a DNA nanostructure with controlling the number of each type of fluorophore. By taking advantage of the different responses of CF and CR emissions to the pH

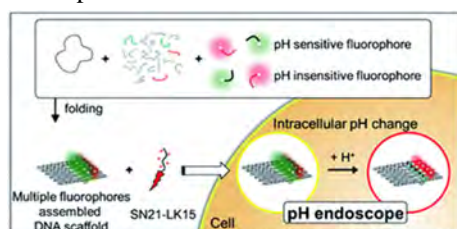


Fig. 4 a DNA origami scaffold assembled with multiple fluorophores to study intracellular pH change. environment, an appropriate assembly of both CF and

CR on DNA origami enabled a controlled intensity of fluorescence emission and ratiometric pH monitoring within the space defined by DNA origami. The CF and CR-assembled DNA origami was successfully applied for monitoring the intracellular pH changes (Fig. 4).

6. Stabilization and structural changes of 2D DNA origami by enzymatic ligation

The low thermal stability of DNA nanostructures is the major drawback in their practical applications. Detailed analyses of the conditions for the enzymatic ligation of the staple strands in 2D square lattice DNA origami provided optimized conditions to enhance the thermal stability of DNA nanostructures (Fig. 5).

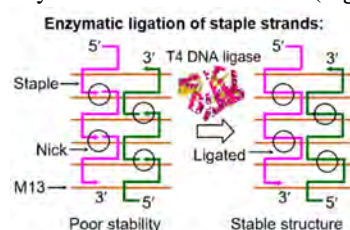


Fig. 5 Enzymatic ligation of staple strands in DNA origami scaffold.

7. Topologically-Interlocked Minicircles as Probes of DNA Topology and DNA-Protein Interactions

The topologically-interlocked minicircle rotaxane and catenane inside a frame-shaped DNA origami were synthesized. To probe the DNA-protein interactions, restriction reactions were carried out on the prepared interlocked structures and other DNAs with different topologies (Fig. 6).

This collaboration work with Prof. Y. Kwon (Ewha Womans University, Korea) was started when she was appointed as a visiting professor of IAE (FY 2013).

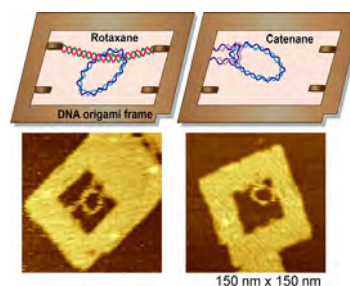


Fig. 6 An illustration of topologically-interlocked minicircles in DNA origami scaffold.

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Structural Energy Bioscience Research Section

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 Y. Yamaoki, Assistant Professor

1. Introduction

We explore the way how biomolecules such as proteins (involving enzymes) and functional nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) work at atomic resolution based on structural biology with NMR and X-ray. We determine both static and dynamical structures with the aid of our own development of the new methodology and elucidate the underlying mechanism of functions of these biomolecules. Structural biological approach is also applied to analyze enzymes involved in degradation of wood biomass at atomic resolution. The analysis is useful to develop the way to extract energy and valuable materials that can be used as starting materials of various products from the wood biomass. Thus, we pursue to contribute to the paradigm shift from oil refinery to biorefinery. Followings are main research achievements in the year of 2021.

2. Synergistic effect of a lytic polysaccharide monoxygenase and commercial cellulase cocktail

Cellulose is the most abundant organic polymer on earth. The second-generation biofuels are produced from cellulose by saccharification and following fermentation processes. However, the high cost of the saccharification process remains an issue. Cellulose-active lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases (LPMOs) catalyze the cleavage of cellulose chain on the crystalline cellulose surface by utilizing electron and oxygen source. Since this cleavage produces new accessible chain-ends for cellulases, LPMOs accelerate the saccharification of cellulose. Previously we solved the crystal structure of an LPMO of a white-rot fungus, *Ceriporiopsis subvermispota* (CsLPMO). Then, a high synergistic effect of CsLPMO and commercial cellulase cocktail was demonstrated. This year, we varied the ratio of CsLPMO to cellulase cocktail, and optimized the conditions of saccharification reaction. By treatment of 5 mg/mL microcrystalline cellulose (MCC) with 37.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ CsLPMO and 12.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ cellulase cocktail, the yield of reducing sugar reached 8.5-fold of the sum of the yields obtained by the treatment with the individual enzymes (Figure 1). The degree of synergy turned out to be the highest among the reported ones for other LPMOs.

We also investigated the role of Tyr residues on the

substrate-binding surface of CsLPMO for substrate binding and synergistic effect. The two of the three Tyr residues, Y27 and Y74, were not conserved among LPMOs and unique for CsLPMO. Site-direct mutagenesis and pull-down assay with MCC revealed that Y27 and Y74 are involved in substrate binding. Unexpectedly but interestingly, the synergistic effect of CsLPMO increased by substituting Y27 and Y74 to Ala. It is known that unbound LPMOs produce H_2O_2 , which is an efficient oxygen source for LPMO activity. We assume that the decrease in substrate affinity by the Y27 and Y74 to Ala substitution led to an increase of the substrate-unbound CsLPMO, by which H_2O_2 was produced and provided to the substrate-bound CsLPMO. The synergistic effect of CsLPMO with the commercial cellulase cocktail may be applicable to the improvement of the process for cellulosic biomass utilization.

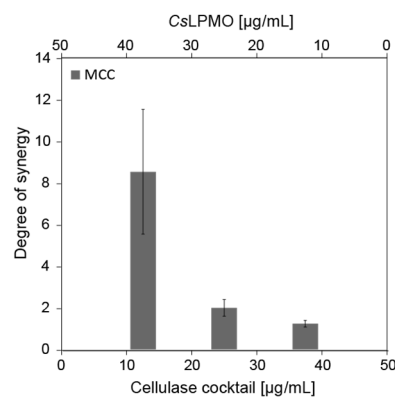


Figure 1. Degree of synergy (DS) at various ratios of CsLPMO and cellulase cocktail on the degradation of 5 mg/mL MCC. DS was calculated using the following equation; $DS = Y_{CL}/(Y_C + Y_L)$, where Y_C , Y_L , and Y_{CL} are the yields of reducing sugars of the treatment with cellulase cocktail, CsLPMO, and both, respectively.

3. Improving the degradation of lignin in beech wood by manganese peroxidase using a bioreactor system

Lignin, one of the major components of woody biomass, is a valuable aromatic polymer. For the utilization of lignin, efficient fragmentation of the lignin structure is required. Although ligninolytic enzymes such as manganese peroxidase (MnP)

catalyzes lignin degradation, the degradation is reportedly competed by undesirable repolymerization. To prevent repolymerization, we deployed a semi-continuous bioreactor system to separate the fragmented lignin compounds from the reaction solution. By using this system, the overall net lignin degradation of beech wood catalyzed by MnP was successfully improved.

4. Determination of the crystal structure of a feruloyl esterase

Ferulic acids decorate hemicellulose via ester-linkage, and bridge hemicellulose and lignin in herbaceous biomass. Feruloyl esterases (FAEs) hydrolyze the ester-linkage between hemicellulose and ferulic acid and enhance the efficiency of hemicellulose degradation. Here, we determined the crystal structure of an FAE, which is phylogenetically related to acetyl xylan esterase (AXE), at 1.5 Å resolution. Additionally, the binding pocket for a substrate, methyl ferulate (MFA), was predicted by molecular docking analysis. Cys39, Glu49, Pro158, and Val163, were close to MFA (< 4 Å) in the docking model and thereby suggested to be involved in direct binding. This is the first structural characterization carried out for AXE-related FAE.

5. Finding of inhibitory effect of Vif on cytidine deamination of DNA by APOBEC3 proteins as revealed by biochemical and real-time NMR methods –new implication on the strategy for developing anti-HIV compounds-

APOBEC3 proteins (A3s), such as APOBEC3G (A3G) and APOBEC3F (A3F), convert cytidine residues to uracil residues through deamination of cytidine residues of minus strand DNA of HIV and thus destroy the genetic information of HIV. Thus, A3s function as guards against HIV. Vif protein of HIV forms a five-membered complex (VβBCC) which comprises a transcription factor, CBFβ, and the components of human E3 ubiquitin ligase, Elongin B, Elongin C, and Culin5 in infected cells. VβBCC ubiquitinates A3s and causes proteasomal degradation of A3s. Thus, Vif neutralizes A3s. In order to avoid the neutralization, compounds which interfere with the A3s-VβBCC interaction is being developed. Here, by means of biochemical and real-time NMR methods we found that VβBCC directly inhibits deamination by A3s independent of ubiquitination and resultant degradation. It was noted surprisingly that the inhibition is caused by the interaction between VβBCC and the C-terminal domain of A3G, which had been regarded not to interact directly with Vif. This finding implies that to develop anti-HIV-1 drugs that can avoid neutralization of A3G by Vif, it is necessary to consider the interference of the interaction of VβBCC with the C-terminal domain of

A3G, in addition to the interference of the interaction of VβBCC with the N-terminal domain of A3G targeted for ubiquitination.

6. Proving the formation of parallel and antiparallel DNA triplex structures in living human cells

The parallel and antiparallel triplex structures comprise Watson-Crick duplex and an additional third strand that is oriented parallel and antiparallel with respect to the polypurine strand of the duplex. These triplex structures formed in human genomic DNA are believed to be involved in known diseases. However, there had been no direct evidence of the actual formation of these triplex structures in living human cells. To prove the formation of the triplex structures in living human cells, we used an advanced in-cell NMR technique incorporating bioreactor system that can supply fresh media to the living cells in NMR tube during spectral acquisition (Figure 2). The oligo DNAs, PT-ODN and APT-ODN, that form parallel and antiparallel triplex, respectively, in *in vitro* were introduced in living HeLa cells. The in-cell NMR spectra were acquired and compared with the *in vitro* NMR spectra. We identified the signals of all the imino protons belonging to the parallel and antiparallel triplex structures in in-cell NMR spectra. This is the first direct evidence of the formation of the parallel and antiparallel DNA triplex structures in living human cells. Additionally, the imino proton signals derived from the duplex structures were also identified in in-cell NMR spectra. These duplexes were resultant of the triplex degradation. In-cell NMR spectra were also used to quantify the population of the triplex and duplex structures. Our in-cell NMR technique should be applicable for investigating the proteins and small compounds targeting the disease-related triplex structures in living human cells.

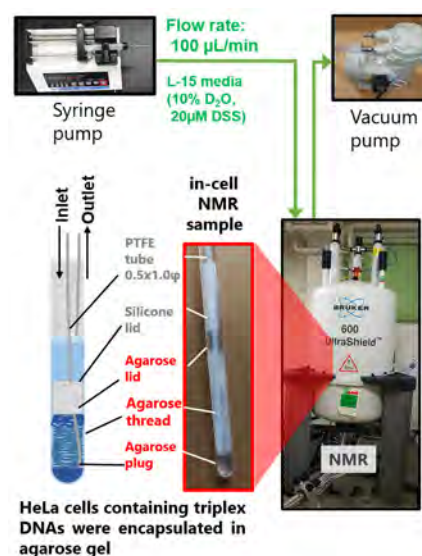


Figure 2. The bioreactor system for in-cell NMR experiment.

Collaboration Works

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片平正人, 永田崇, BIOTEC, NSTDA (タイ), LIPI (インドネシア), NUOL (ラオス), e-ASIA

大垣英明, 森井孝, 片平正人, 野平俊之, モンゴル国立大学, インドネシア大学, フィリピン大学ディリマン校, ベトナム国家大学ハノイ校, ラオス国立大学, 王立ブノンペン大学, 研究拠点形成事業 B. アジア・アフリカ学術基盤形成型

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Self-Assembly Science Research Section

A. Rajendran, Junior Associate Professor

1. Introduction

Nucleic acids and their nanostructures, such as scaffolded DNA origami,¹ have been used for organizing enzyme cascades and shown to enhance the efficiency and rate of sequential reactions.² Besides some proof-of-concept experiments, the use of DNA origami for templating the biomass-related enzymes is hampered by their unsatisfactory stability to withstand the folded structure under application-specific conditions. For example, the origami structures are only stable below the melting temperature of around 50 °C.³ Also, the origami materials poorly withstand the mechanical forces and break even under the mild forces applied during the structural analysis by force-based methods such as atomic force microscopy (AFM).⁴ Further, it requires a significantly high ionic strength of typically 5-20 mM of MgCl₂.⁵ Ionic strengths in physiological conditions where enzymes are often handled are much lower than needed to ensure origami stability. The typical Mg²⁺ concentration in cell culture media is 0.04 to 0.8 mM, and that of Na⁺ and K⁺ are about 150 and 5.5 mM, respectively,

making these environments significantly destabilizing toward DNA origami materials.⁶ Moreover, the solutions containing enzymes often undergo desalting and buffer exchanging processes and may also be stored in pure water to adapt the optimum conditions suitable for the enzymatic reactions. However, in pure water or low ionic strength buffers, the DNA origami immediately unfolds, and it is not very convenient to store the templated enzymes under these conditions and carry out multienzyme reactions. Biomass often undergoes chemical pretreatments using strong acids or bases to break down the lignin. Also, the biomass product contains several carboxylic acids with a pH of 2 to 2.5. Though the DNA origami materials were shown to be stable up to a pH of 11, the low pH values below 4 were found to denature the DNA origami.⁵ Thus, it is necessary to develop methods to stabilize the DNA origami nanomaterials for various applications, particularly for handling the enzymes related to biomass energy conversion.

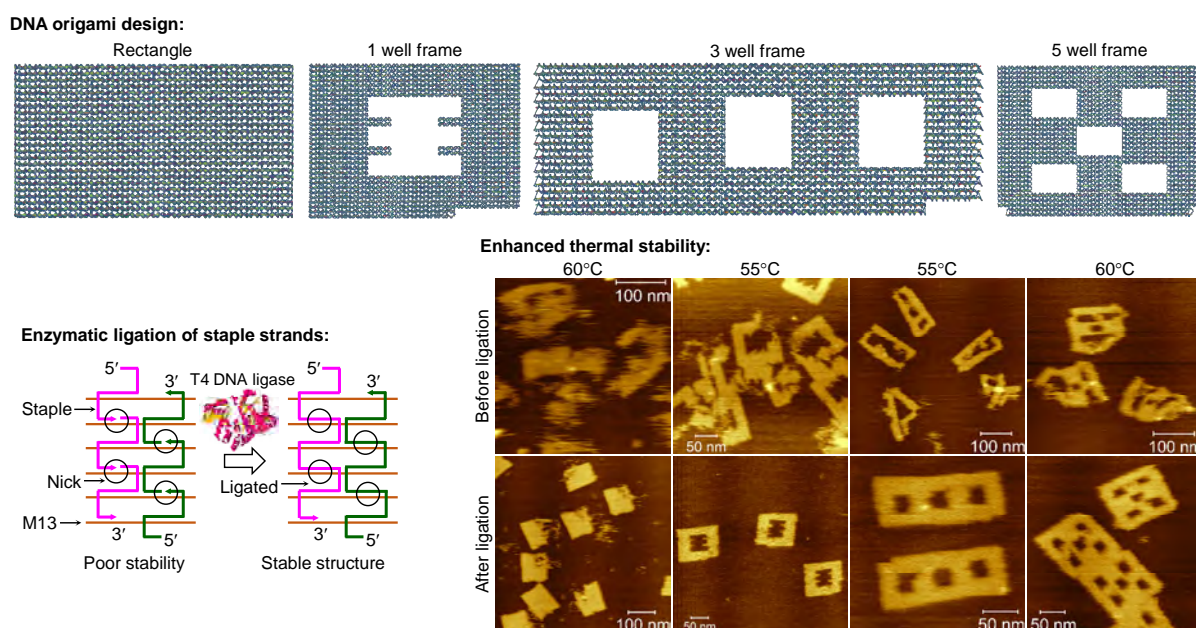
2. Methods to improve the stability of DNA origami

Figure 1. Top: Structures of the 2D DNA origami used in this study. Bottom left: Schematic illustration of enzymatic ligation of the nicks in DNA origami. Bottom right: AFM images evidencing the enhanced thermal stability of origami after enzymatic ligation.

One primary reason for the stability issues of the origami structures is the presence of breaks in the phosphate backbone, the so-called nicks of the staple strands. Increasing the staple length would improve the thermal stability but, at the same time, will lead to practical difficulties such as increased cost of synthesis, decreased product yield and purity, and limitations on the maximum length of synthetic oligo DNAs. We have previously reported a method to stabilize the DNA origami structures by photo-cross-linking of 8-methoxypsoralen.³ Another method is the UV light-induced cyclobutane pyrimidine dimer formation by placing thymidines in close proximity within the DNA origami.⁷ However, these methods are not suitable where native-like DNA is anticipated, as they introduce chemical cross-links to the DNA strands. Also, the irradiation of UV light for 1 to 2 h often leads to DNA damage. The alternative method is the enzymatic ligation of the nicks, which is routinely used in molecular biology. Enzymatic ligation was applied for a few small non-scaffolded and scaffolded DNA structures.⁸⁻¹² However, the conditions for enzymatic ligation of DNA origami were not optimized, and no evidence was provided to support the success of the ligation. Thus, to improve the stability of DNA origami, in this study, we aimed to perform the enzymatic ligation, cosolvent-assisted enhancement in enzymatic ligation, and chemical ligation of DNA origami. For this purpose, we have made a collaboration with Prof. Takashi Morii's group at the Biofunctional Chemistry Research Section of the Advanced Energy Utilization Division.

3. Enzymatic ligation of DNA origami nano-materials

At first, we have carried out a detailed analysis and optimization of the conditions for the enzymatic ligation of the staple strands in four types of 2D square lattice DNA origami, namely rectangle (Rec),¹ 1 (1WF),¹³ 3 (3WF),¹⁴ and 5 well-frame (5WF,¹⁵ Figure 1). Our results indicated that the ligation takes overnight, is efficient at 37 °C rather than the usual 16 °C or room temperature, and typically requires a much higher concentration of T4 DNA ligase.¹⁶ Under the optimized conditions, up to 10 staples ligation with a maximum ligation efficiency of 55% was achieved. Also, the ligation is found to increase the thermal stability of the origami as low as 5 °C to as high as 20 °C, depending on the structure (Figure 1). Further, our studies indicated that the ligation of the staple strands influences the globular structure/planarity of the DNA origami, and the origami is more compact when the staples are ligated. The globular structure of the native and ligated origami was also found to be altered dynamically and progressively upon ethidium bromide intercalation in a concentration-dependent manner.¹⁶ Moreover, our results shed light on the structural features and

mechanistic insights on the DNA-ligase interaction and accessibility to the nick site in DNA origami.

4. Cosolvent-assisted enhanced enzymatic ligation of DNA origami

Besides our initial demonstration, due to the tightly-packed anti-parallelly oriented arrangement of multiple duplexes in the origami and the difficulties in the accessibility of the nicks by ligase, enzymatic ligation was only partly successful. To further enhance the enzymatic ligation of origami, we have carried out the effect of cosolvent and identified the best performing cosolvent. Our results indicated that the cosolvent enhances enzymatic ligation. Further, we have successfully carried out the chemical ligation of 2D and 3D DNA origami and enhanced the thermal stability of the DNA origami materials.

Overall, our results are useful to understand the optimized conditions for the enzymatic and chemical ligations of DNA origami structures, ligation-induced structural rigidity and compactness, the access of ligase enzyme in a tightly packed environment, and the nature of ethidium bromide binding and its influence on the conformational change in DNA origami materials.

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Broad Band Energy Science Research Section

T. Nohira, Professor
Y. Norikawa, Assistant Professor

1. Introduction

In recent years, renewable energy is attracting a great deal of attention as a means of achieving a sustainable society. Solar cells are one of the promising renewable energies. Thus, the annual installation of PV cells exceeded 117 GW year⁻¹ in 2019 [1]. Nowadays, crystalline Si solar cells account for 96.5% of total solar cell production due to its high efficiency and durability, with demand continuing to increase in 2020. However, the major disadvantages of the conventional Si substrate manufacturing method are the low productivity of the Siemens process and the considerable kerf loss in the Si slicing process. As the demand for crystalline Si solar cells continues to grow, there is a strong need to develop alternative manufacturing methods for Si solar cells.

In this research section, as the one of the new manufacturing methods for Si solar cells, electrodeposition process was developed.

2. Development of Si Plating Processes Using Molten Salt Electrolytes: Direct Plating of n- and p-type Si

Plating n-type and p-type Si directly on the substrates is one of the most promising methods for manufacturing solar cells with fewer steps. We have already proposed new electrodeposition process of Si utilizing KF–KCl as an electrolyte and SiCl₄ as a Si ion source [1]. We also reported electrodeposition of dense Si films with smooth surface in KF–KCl at 923–1073 K [2–5]. In this fiscal year, we investigated the semiconductor characteristics of Si films electrodeposited in KF–KCl–K₂SiF₆ and KF–KCl–K₂SiF₆–KBF₄ at 1023 K. Also, we measured the solar cell characteristics of p–n junction Si films formed by two-step electrodeposition.

Fig. 1 shows photoresponses during the linear sweep voltammetry of Si films electrodeposited in KF–KCl–K₂SiF₆, where the light was chopped at a frequency of 1 Hz. For Si films electrodeposited at lower current densities, anodic currents change with the light chopping, indicating that the obtained Si films are n-type semiconductors. Fig. 2 shows photoresponses of Si films electrodeposited in KF–KCl–K₂SiF₆–KBF₄. When the added amount of KBF₄ was 2 and 5 mol ppm, cathodic currents change with the light chopping. This indicates that the addition of boron, an acceptor element, causes the deposited

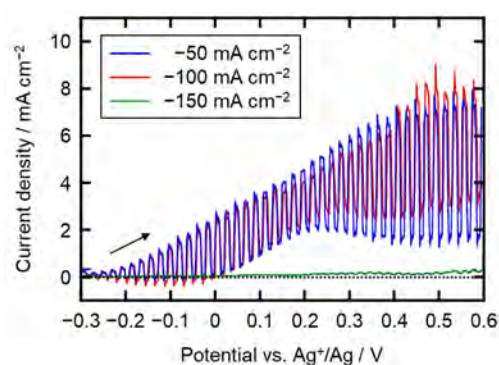


Fig. 1. Linear sweep voltammograms in acetonitrile containing 0.1 M TBAPF₆ and 0.05 M Fc at 298 K. Working electrodes were the Si films obtained by galvanostatic electrolysis of graphite plates at cathodic current densities of 50–150 mA cm⁻² (charge density: -90 C cm⁻²) in molten KF–KCl–K₂SiF₆ (KF:KCl = 60:40 mol%, K₂SiF₆: 3.5 mol%) at 1023 K. Xe light was chopped at a frequency of 1 Hz by a chopper. Scan rate: 10 mV s⁻¹.

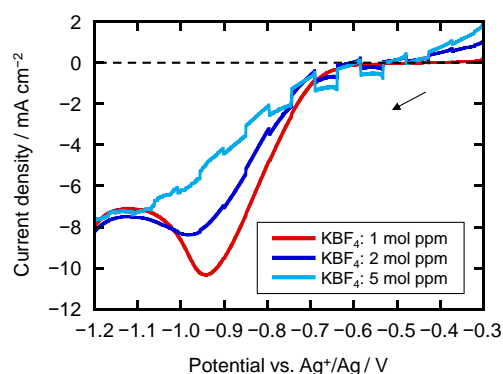


Fig. 2. Linear sweep voltammograms of Si films obtained by galvanostatic electrolysis at -100 mA cm⁻² in molten KF–KCl–K₂SiF₆–KBF₄ (KF:KCl = 60:40 mol%, K₂SiF₆: 3.5 mol%, KBF₄: 1, 2, 5 ppm) at 1023 K. Xe light was chopped at a frequency of 1 Hz by a chopper. Scan rate: 50 mV s⁻¹.

Si films to become p-type.

Next, we conducted two steps electrodeposition; n-type Si was electrodeposited on graphite substrates in $\text{KF-KCl-K}_2\text{SiF}_6$, and then p-type Si was deposited in $\text{KF-KCl-K}_2\text{SiF}_6\text{-KBF}_4$ (5 mol ppm). The characteristics of the solar cells was evaluated by the current-voltage curve as shown in Fig. 3. Power generation was confirmed and $j_{\text{sc}} = 5.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ and $V_{\text{oc}} = 0.38 \text{ mV}$. These values were much smaller than the desired value, which might be caused by impurities in Si films and failure to accurately define the area of light exposure. Therefore, both the electrodeposition method and the measurement method need to be improved.

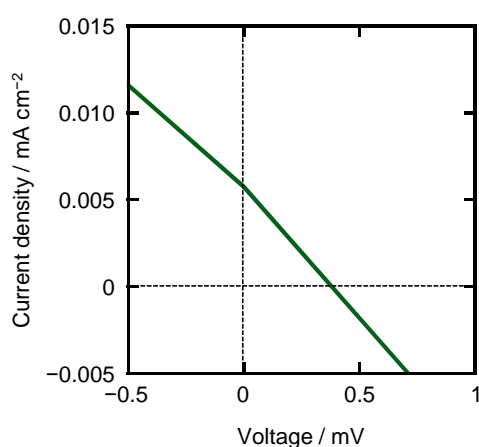


Fig. 3. Current-voltage characteristics of the p-n junction Si film on graphite plate under 1 sun, AM 1.5G illumination.

3. Development of Si Plating Processes Using Molten Salt Electrolytes: Deposition of Large Grain Si Utilizing Zn Liquid Electrode

We have investigated the Si electrodeposition in KF-KCl molten salt and confirmed that p-n junction Si films can be formed directly by electrodeposition. However, one of the issues was that the small crystal grains resulted in a large number of Si boundaries, which reduced the efficiency of solar cells. When Si was electrodeposited on solid substrates, the grain size was 50 nm at 923 K and 20 μm at 1073 K [5]. On the other hands, Maldonado *et al.* obtained crystalline Si by using a liquid metal electrode even at 373 K, where crystalline Si cannot be deposited on solid substrates [6]. They called this method “electrochemical liquid-liquid-solid (ec-LLS) process”. With this background, we conceived the idea of applying the ec-LLS process to Si electrolysis at high temperatures to obtain large Si grains. In this fiscal year, fundamental study was conducted to verify the principle of ec-LLS process in high-temperature molten salt.

Fig. 4(a) shows a photo of the obtained Zn ingot after potentiostatic electrolysis at 0.75 V vs. K^+/K for 48 hours in molten $\text{KF-KCl-K}_2\text{SiF}_6$ (2.0 mol%) at 923 K. Si was present on the surface of the Zn ingot facing the BN crucible, not in the molten salt. This indicates that Si precipitation occurred inside the Zn electrode. The precipitation mechanism is thought to be as follows:

- (1) Si(IV) ions are reduced on the surface of the Zn electrode to form a liquid Si-Zn alloy.
- (2) Alloyed Si diffuses into the interior of the Zn electrode.
- (3) Saturated Si precipitates as solid Si.

As shown in Fig. 4(b), grain size of the obtained Si was more than 1 mm, confirming that Si grows at high speed by the ec-LLS process.

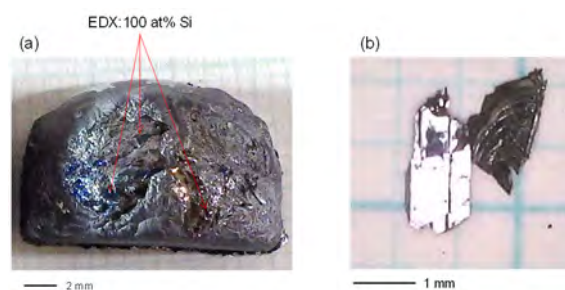


Fig. 4. (a) A photo of the sample obtained by potentiostatic electrolysis at 0.75 V for 48 hours in molten $\text{KF-KCl-K}_2\text{SiF}_6$ (2.0 mol%) at 923 K. (b) A photo of a separated large Si after HCl treatment.

Acknowledgement

These researches were partly supported by grants to T. N. from JSPS KAKENHI (21H04620).

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茂木 渉, 法川 勇太郎, 野平 俊之, 熔融 KF–KCl–K₂SiF₆ 中における液体 Zn 電極を用いた結晶性 Si 電析に与える電流密度の影響, 第 53 回熔融塩化学討論会, 東京大学生産技術研究所 /Online (Hybrid), 2021.11.18-19

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Environmental Microbiology Research Section

T. Hara, Program-Specific Professor

Y. Takatsuka, Program-Specific Associate Professor

1. Introduction

There is a very close relationship between energy resources consumption and environmental protection, becoming essential research issues for developing a sustainable society. We still heavily rely on fossil energy, and there is concern that emitted greenhouse gases break the harmony of the global environment. Besides, we need a great deal of energy to fix environmental pollution that continues to be the shadow of civilization progress due to the energy consumption of fossil fuels. As one of the solutions, we will develop a practical method using ‘enzymes’ derived from environmental microorganisms with high energy utilization efficiency in catabolism. Also, we are remarking on sustainable food production methods, which is the energy of life. We are globally working with academics, biotech, and university start-ups to network research toward the social implementation of our technologies.

2-1. Two-compositely microbial catalyst efficiently degraded polychlorinated biphenyls.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are well-known environmental pollutants broadened in all living environments. Biphenyl dioxygenase (BDO) plays a crucial role in the degradation of PCBs. BDO catalyzes the incorporation of two oxygen atoms into the aromatic ring of PCB, which induces the aromatic ring cleavage. Significantly, we developed the composite type of catalytic enzyme consisting of the two BDOs

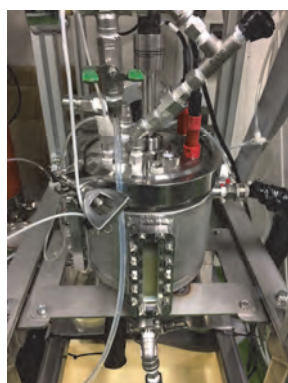


Figure 1. The composite BDOs-microbial catalyst was evaluated in the dedicated experimental bioreactor with the device of oxygen microbubble generation.

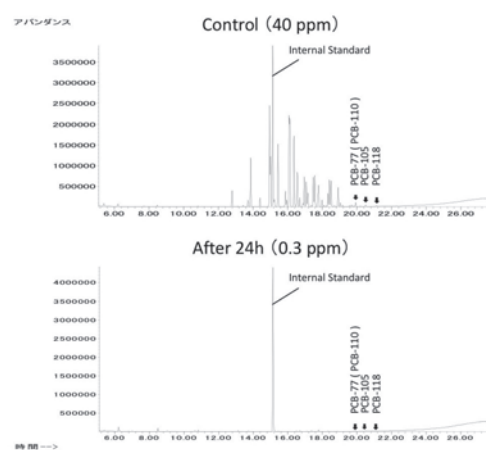


Figure 2. The data from the gas chromatography-quadrupole mass spectrometer showing the PCBs degradation by the composite BDOs-microbial catalyst.

with different substrate specificities; moreover, we developed the bioreactor for generating oxygen microbubbles that enhance the enzymatic activities BDOs (Figure 1). As a result, we succeeded in constructing the practical system that degraded 99.3% of 40 mg L⁻¹ of major commercial PCBs (Kenecrol KC-300 and KC-400) in 24 hours (Figure 2). Moreover, this result achieved the waste disposal standard defined by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. These technical foci were reported in the international journal published this fiscal year.

2-2. Several bacterial species associated with PCBs dechlorination were genetically identified on PCBs contaminated sites.

To extend further the composite degrading reaction of PCBs, we have been trying to create a unique artificial enzyme that dechlorinates PCBs by two-electron reduction. Here, we collected fresh-water sediments from the contaminated site with PCBs in the Osaka area and investigated whether the bacteria associated with PCBs dechlorination exist. As a result, it was estimated that *Dehalobacter* sp. and *Desulfitobacterium* sp. by 16S rRNA gene phylogenetic analysis. Wang and He (Environ Sci Technol, 2013) reported that ‘*Deharobacter*’ dechlorinates penta-/hexa-

chlorinated biphenyls and ‘*Desulfitobacterium*’ dechlorinates tetra-chlorinated biphenyls hydroxylated at the para position. We succeeded in preparing the media for growing these particular bacterial species and their cultivation method. Besides, we also observed that these two bacterial species reduce PCBs in the artificial model of the polluted environment. Even today, repeated long-term observation is being made to confirm whether the result is correct.

3-1. The biological enzymatic pesticide may become a new pesticide with a new sterilizing mechanism to replace organic synthetic chemicals.

Many plant diseases are generally caused by either *Ascomycetes* or *Basidiomycetes* that belong to filamentous fungi. ‘Filamentous fungi’ are hyphae and proliferate to mycelia. The cell wall is a peculiar composite material that incorporates a mix of cross-linked fibers and matrix components. The fibrous components of the cell wall are glucan, chitin, and mannan, and these sugar chains contribute to forming a supple and solid filiform microfibril wall. Glycosidase is a hydrolase that catalyzes the hydrolysis of glycosidic bonds in complex sugars. We are developing a new bio-macromolecular type of fungicide utilizing the hydrolysis reactions of glycosidases against the fungal microfibril wall. So far, our composite type of bacterial catalyst composed of 5 strains from class *Bacilli*, which produce and secrete various glycosidases, controlled 99.3% of a tomato-*Pestalotia* disease with *Pestalotiopsis* sp. (Figure 3). Glycosidases are classified into approximately 130 families, and their catalytic reactions are roughly divided into anomeric inversion and/or anomer retention and exo-glycosidase or endo-glycosidase. Given that, the classification of glycosidase can be understood as diverse. We have considered it possible to efficiently digest fungi cell walls by compositely capably using these diversities of enzyme activities.

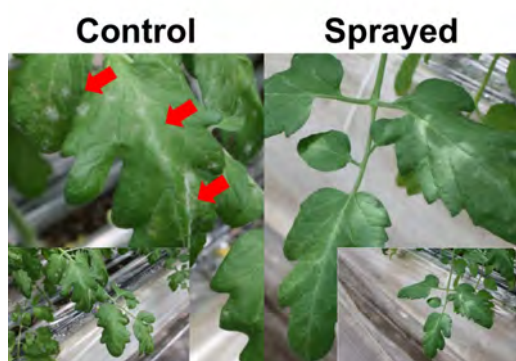


Figure 3. The glycosidase secreted type of the composite microbial catalyst inhibited tomato-*Pestalotia* disease.

3-2. Phytopathogenic filamentous fungi that secrete various glycosidases kill hostile phytopathogenic filamentous fungi for their survival.

We investigated the fungicidal properties of glycosidases produced by a phytopathogenic filamentous strain belonging to *Basidiomycetes*. When grown in a bran medium, this filamentous strain secretes enzymes and exhibits various glycosidase activities. This crude enzyme fraction showing composite glycosidase activities digested 3 out of 6 wet-rice-specific epidemically filamentous fungi (Figure 4). There are not almost enzymes showing high digesting activity against multiple strains of phytopathogenic filamentous fungi. In the case of single glycosidase activity, on the other hand, digested only 2 strains. These results suggested that the composite glucosidase has a more fungicidal activity than the individual glycosidase. We try to purify the components of this crude enzyme. Soon, we may clarify the effectively fungicidal mechanism of

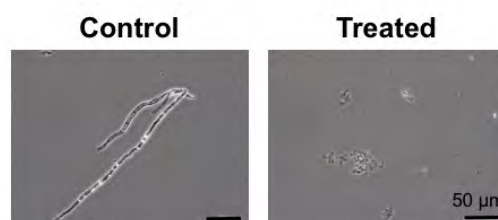


Figure 4. The crude enzyme fraction secreted from the phytopathogenic filamentous fungus digested a wet-rice specific epidemically filamentous fungal strain.

this crude enzyme by definite the type of the enzyme(s), the amounts of the secretion, and the specific activities.

4. Pigmented and non-pigmented *Bacillus* spores work together to improve shrimp growth, quality, and health.

Our collaborative research with Vietnam National University revealed that two strains of *Bacillus* isolated from the intestinal tract of white-leg shrimp had excellent health-improving functions to the same class's shrimps. This *Bacillus* probiotic avoids using antibiotics and synthetic chemicals in feeding, enhances shrimp health and growth efficiency, and reduces the energy consumption in white-leg shrimp cultivation. This cultivated industry has been recently growing in Japan, but there is almost no appropriate feed. Therefore, we are collaborating with academic institutions specializing in crustaceans to verify their usefulness in detail.

Collaboration Works

原富次郎, 高塚由美子, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory-Columbia University (アメリカ), ポリ塩化ビフェニル類を分解する微生物とその由来酵素

原富次郎, 高塚由美子, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering-National University of Singapore (シンガポール), ポリ塩化ビフェニルを脱塩素化する細菌

Financial Support

原富次郎, 日本医療研究開発機構, 新メソッドによる薬用ニンジンの品質評価を軸とした伝統的栽培法数値化と効率的生産法の開発 (AMED 原資)

原富次郎, 日本医療研究開発機構, 新メソッドによる薬用ニンジンの品質評価を軸とした伝統的栽培法数値化と効率的生産法の開発 (企業原資)

原富次郎, 東洋ガラス (株), 環境微生物の探索と機能解明の研究のため

原富次郎, (株) 竹中工務店, 環境微生物の探索と機能解明の研究のため

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3-2. AWARD

Young Researcher Award of the Japanese Society of Infrared Science and Technology

Quantum Radiation Energy Research Section Heishun Zen (Assistant Professor)

Assistant Professor Heishun Zen was awarded the Young Researcher Award of the Japanese Society of Infrared Science and Technology on June 4th, 2021. This award has been established to encourage young researchers in their research work and further enliven the community of infrared science and technology. He was awarded this award for his intensive research and development work of the mid-infrared free electron laser including his efforts in supporting the application experiments.

In his award lecture, which was held on July 4th, 2021 online, he presented his research work on the mid-infrared free electron laser and several application experiments performed in Kyoto University Free Electron Laser facility under the support of Joint Usage/Research Center for Zero-Emission Energy Research.



The 17th PASJ Award for Research Encouragement

Quantum Radiation Energy Research Section Heishun Zen (Assistant Professor)

Assistant Professor Heishun Zen was awarded the 17th PASJ Award for Research Encouragement from the Particle Accelerator Society of Japan on June 10th, 2021. This award has been established to encourage young researchers in their research work and further enliven the community of particle accelerator. He was awarded this award for his research work on the improvement of the extraction efficiency of oscillator-type infrared free electron laser driven by a normal conducting linear accelerator. The research was performed under the support of MEXT Quantum Leap Flagship Program (MEXT Q-LEAP) Grant Number JPMXS0118070271.

In his award lecture, which was held on August 11th, 2021 online, he presented the recent achievement of the high extraction efficiency operation of the mid-infrared free electron laser. His talk included several efforts to achieve high extraction efficiency and projects.



Student Poster Award, Atomic Energy Society of Japan

Advanced Atomic Energy Research Section
Yuto Murata (M2)

Yuto Murata (M2) was awarded Student Poster Award from Atomic Energy Society of Japan (AESJ) on 10th September 2021. This poster session was hosted by the AESJ Student Network and the AESJ Diversity Promotion Committee. In the poster session, there were diverse presentations by students (from undergraduate to doctoral course students).

In his work, the saturated solubility of Bi in liquid Li–Pb was measured in the temperature range from 508 to 623 K, in order to evaluate amount of Po production in a fusion reactor with liquid blanket. The measured results showed a positive temperature dependence where the solubility decreases as the temperature was lowered. The equation of the solubility curve of Bi in Li–Pb gave the dissolution enthalpy of Bi as -77 kJ/mol. By X-ray diffraction analysis of the precipitates, the formation of Li_3Bi phase was confirmed.



Student Poster Award, Atomic Energy Society of Japan

Advanced Atomic Energy Research Section
Yasuyuki Ogino (D3)

Yasuyuki Ogino (D3) was awarded Young Researcher Award from Atomic Energy Society of Japan (AESJ) Kansai branch. The young researcher workshop was held on 10th March 2022 virtually and hosted by the AESJ Kansai branch. In the workshop, young researchers in Kansai area had oral presentations.

In his work, the thermal and epi-thermal neutron fluxes in a blanket mock-up were measured by using metal foils and imaging plate. The metal foils were activated by deuterium–deuterium neutron irradiation with an average neutron production rate of $1.22 - 1.31 \times 10^7$ n/sec. The radiations of β - and γ - rays emitted during each decay process were measured on an imaging plate of 2-dimensional radiation dosimeters. The detection range at measured positions was between 2×10^{-3} and 5×10^{-2} cm²/n, and calculation to experimental values was 0.27–2.47.

Student Presentation Awarded of the Physical Society of Japan

Complex Plasma Systems Research Section Panith Adulsiriswad (D3)

2021 Autumn meeting of the Physical Society of Japan was held on September 20-23, 2021, on-line. This meeting has a long history since 1946 and it has covered almost all fields of physics.

Panith Adulsiriswad (D3) attended in the meeting and made a presentation titled “Study of the Interaction between Peripheral Energetic Particle Mode and Energetic Particles in Heliotron J with MEGA, a Hybrid MHD Simulation with Free Boundary Condition”.

He received the Student Presentation Award of the Physical Society of Japan (division 2, or plasma physics). This was the second time for him in this meeting; the first time being last year.



Excellent Poster Presentation Award (The 34th Fall Meeting, The Ceramic Society of Japan)

Functional Materials Science and Engineering Research Section Hiroyuki Sakai (M2)

The 34th Fall Meeting, the Ceramic Society of Japan, was held on 1st – 3rd of September, 2021. This event provides to promote the development of industry, science and technology related to the ceramics field.

Hiroyuki Sakai (M2) attended and made a poster presentation on the topic of “Effect of eutectic reaction on RE-silicate formation by surface modification of SiC”. He received the Excellent Poster Presentation Award from the Ceramic Society of Japan.

In this presentation, he presented about the effect of eutectic reaction on surface modification of liquid phase sintered SiC. This modification method works as an alternative technology to conventional environmental barrier coatings in particular for aerospace application.

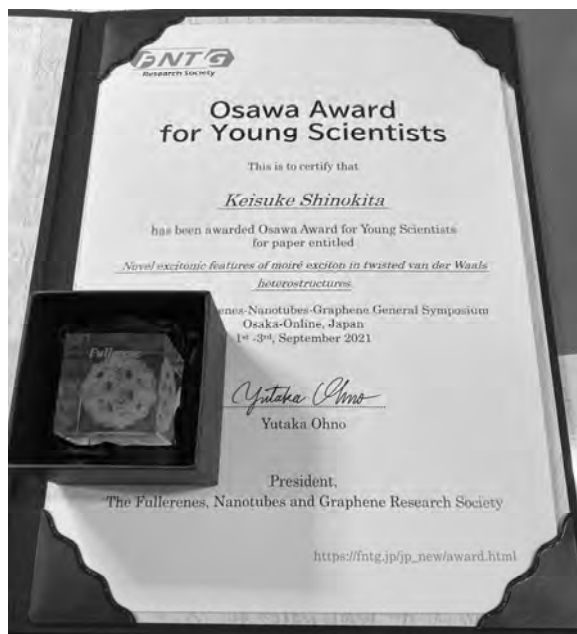


Osawa Award for Young Scientists (The Fullerenes, Nanotubes and Graphene (FNTG) Research Society)

Nano Optical Science Research Section
Keisuke Shinokita (Assistant Professor)

Assistant professor Keisuke Shinokita was awarded Osawa Award for Young Scientists from the Fullerenes, Nanotubes and Graphene (FNTG) Research Society. The Osawa Award for Young Scientists is given to researchers awarded to presentations on theory, experimentation, and application development of fullerene and its related substances. He was awarded this prize on the achievements of “Novel excitonic features of moiré exciton in twisted van der Waals heterostructures.”

In his award lecture, which was held on 3rd September 2021, at the online meeting, he presented several emergent optical phenomena and the physical mechanism of the twisted $\text{MoSe}_2/\text{WSe}_2$



Young Scientist Poster Award (The Fullerenes, Nanotubes and Graphene Research Society) and Nanoscale Horizon Presentation Prize (The Royal Society of Chemistry)

Nano Optical Science Research Section
Mikio Kobayashi (M2)

Mikio Kobayashi (M2) was awarded Young Scientist Poster Award (The Fullerenes, Nanotubes and Graphene Research Society) and Nanoscale Horizon Presentation Prize (The Royal Society of Chemistry) of The 62th Fullerenes-Nanotubes-Graphene General Symposium on March 2-4, 2022. The Young Scientist Poster Award is given to a few researchers who gave a poster presentation. Nanoscale Horizon Presentation Prize is given to an outstanding presentation at the conference. He was awarded these prizes on the presentation of “Optical properties of transition metal dichalcogenides with microspherical optical cavity”.

He presented about demonstration of optical resonances of light emission from transition metal dichalcogenides and van der Waals heterostructures in a spherical optical cavity in the previous symposium on March 1st, 2021 at Osaka University (online). In addition, this study will lead to advanced light emission devices with atomically semiconducting materials.



Young Researcher Award of The Electrochemical Society of Japan (Sano Award)

Chemical Reaction Complex Processes
Research Section
Takayuki Yamamoto (Assistant Professor)

Assistant Professor Takayuki Yamamoto received Young Researcher Award of The Electrochemical Society of Japan (Sano Award) on March 16th, 2022. This award is annually given to young researchers who have achieved outstanding progress in the field of electrochemistry. He received this award for his work on “Next-Generation Rechargeable Batteries Utilizing Ionic Liquids and Various Charge Carriers”.

In his award lecture online on March 17th, 2022, he presented new findings and progress on several rechargeable batteries including sodium and potassium secondary batteries with amide-based ionic liquid electrolytes and fluoride-shuttle batteries using fluoro-hydrogenate ionic liquids.



Research Encouragement Award at The 89th Workshop of Materials Tailoring Society

Chemical Reaction Complex Processes
Research Section
Alisha Yadav (D3)

The 89th workshop of Materials Tailoring Society was held on 6th–7th August 2021, Online, and was organized by Materials Tailoring Society.

The purpose of this workshop is to systemize the basic study of nanostructured interface creation that induces high-performance physical properties by non-equilibrium processing such as plasma and electrolytic processes and to also apply them to energy conversion and storage.

Ms. Alisha Yadav (D3) attended this workshop and made a poster presentation on the topic “Comparative studies on Graphite as Negative Electrode for Alkali Metal-ion Batteries using FSA-based Ionic Liquids”, and received the Research Encouragement Award. She investigated the potassium storage behavior of graphite in $K[\text{FSA}]-[\text{C}_3\text{C}_1\text{pyrr}][\text{FSA}]$ electrolyte at 313 K temperature through electrochemical and XRD measurements and observed the formation of various stages of K-GICs. She further compared the performance of graphite as negative electrode in Li-, Na-, and K-ion systems using $M[\text{FSA}]-[\text{C}_3\text{C}_1\text{pyrr}][\text{FSA}]$ ($x(M[\text{FSA}]) = 0.20$) ($M = \text{Li}, \text{Na}, \text{K}$) electrolytes.



Best Student Poster Award in the 12th International Symposium of Advanced Energy Science

**Chemical Reaction Complex Processes
Research Section
Wataru Moteki (M2)**

The 12th International Symposium of Advanced Energy Science was held on September 7–8, 2021, on-line Remote Conference. This event provides young researchers and students in the field related with energy an opportunity to present their works.

In the meeting, Mr. Wataru Moteki (M2) attended and made a poster presentation on the topic of “Electrodeposition of Crystalline Silicon Using a Liquid Zn electrode in KF–KCl Molten Salt”. He received the Best Student Poster Award.

**Young Researcher's Award in the 3rd Kansai Electrochemistry Workshop**

**Chemical Reaction Complex Processes
Research Section
Wataru Moteki (M2)**

The 3st Kansai Electrochemistry Workshop was held on 4th December 2021, on Webinar, which was held by the Kansai Branch of the Electrochemical Society of Japan. This event provides young researchers and students in the field of electrochemistry and its surrounding area an opportunity to present their works.

In the meeting, Mr. Wataru Moteki (M2) attended and made a poster presentation on the topic of “Crystalline Si electrodeposition using a liquid Zn electrode in a KF–KCl molten salt”. He received the Young Researcher's Award.



JEOL RESONANCE Poster Award in ISMAR-APNMR-NMRSJ-SEST 2021

Structural Energy Bioscience
Research Section
Yudai Yamaoki (Assistant professor)

The ISMAR-APNMR-NMRSJ-SEST 2021 was held online from 22nd to 27th August, 2021 as a joint conference of the 22nd International Society of Magnetic Resonance Conference, the 9th Asia-Pacific NMR Symposium, the 60th Annual Meeting of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Society of Japan 2021, and the 60th Annual Meeting of the Society of Electron Spin Science and Technology. ISMAR-APNMR-NMRSJ-SEST 2021 is the largest international conferences in the magnetic resonance research field and 920 front-line researchers were participated.

In this meeting, Yudai Yamaoki made poster presentation entitled "In-cell NMR analyses of the structure and dynamics of hairpin and G-quadruplex structures in the living human cells". The intracellular environment is highly condensed with macromolecules. Under such cellular conditions, it has long been considered that dynamics of nucleic acids might be different from those under *in vitro* conditions, however there is no evidence. In the presentation, he used in-cell NMR technique that provide the information of structural dynamics of nucleic acids inside the living cell and revealed that the base-pair lifetime of some base pairs in the RNA hairpin and DNA G-quadruplex structures are different from that under *in vitro* conditions.

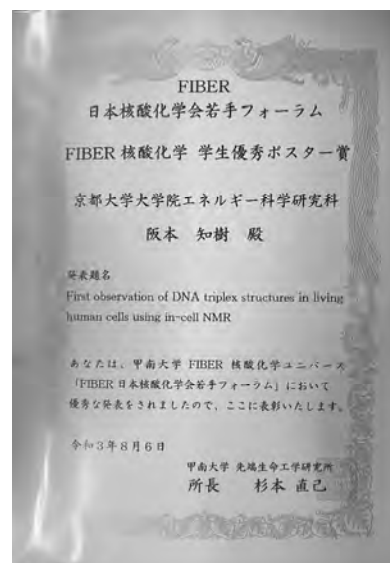
Yudai Yamaoki was awarded JEOL RESONANCE Poster Award from the committee of ISMAR-APNMR-NMRSJ-SEST 2021. JEOL RESONANCE Poster Award were given to five outstanding presentations in the joint conference.



Best Student Poster Award in Young Researchers Forum of FIBER and The Japan Society of Nucleic Acids Chemistry

Structural Energy Bioscience
Research Section
Tomoki Sakamoto (D1)

Young Researchers Forum of FIBER and The Japan Society of Nucleic Acids Chemistry was held on 5-6th August 2021 as an online forum. This forum was jointly organized by The Frontier Institute for Biomolecular Engineering Research (FIBER) and the Japan Society of Nucleic Acids Chemistry to deepen exchanges among researchers in nucleic acid chemistry and foster a younger generation of researchers. Tomoki Sakamoto made a poster presentation entitled "First observation of DNA triplex structures in living human cells using in-cell NMR" in this meeting. DNA, the carrier of genes, is known to form a triplex structure within a particular DNA sequence. It has been pointed out that such triplex structures are associated with diseases such as Friedreich's ataxia. In his presentation, he reported for the first time that DNA triplex structures could be formed in living human cells using in-cell NMR method, which can directly obtain information on molecules in living cells. The results obtained in this study will provide important information for developing DNA triplex structure-specific drugs. Tomoki Sakamoto was awarded Best Student Poster Award in Young Researchers Forum of FIBER and The Japan Society of Nucleic Acids Chemistry. These awards were given to five students who gave outstanding presentations out of 87 participants



Local Co-Creation Project in Kinokawa; Grand Prize

**Environmental Microbiology
Research Section
Motohito Yoneda (Researcher)**

Motohito Yoneda, a Researcher, was awarded the Grand Prize by the "Local Co-Creation Project in Kinokawa" sponsored by the government city of Kinokawa on March 20, 2022. This prize is given to those who created a new processed product brand rooted in the Kinokawa area.

He was awarded this prize for developing a new liquid seasoning by applying organic herbs grown by sowing arbuscular mycorrhizal strains. The characteristic of this seasoning is that it has a high aroma and lasts a long time. The products produced from this result will be distributed to the market as products certified by the government city of Kinokawa shortly.



< Picture stating receiving the prize “最優秀賞“, and Dr. Yoneda is wearing a lab coat. >

4. JOINT USAGE/RESEARCH PROGRAM



Joint Usage/Research Center Program “Zero Emission Energy Research”

It is an urgent task to find out the best solutions against the energy and environmental problem for ensuring the sustainable society on the earth. The new energy system for this purpose has to be an environmentally friendly or ecological one. Here, we should consider not only the energy sources but also the efficiency in the each phase of energy usage. The former should have good quality and enough quantity. The latter should be considered including the so-called “three Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle)” in the energy system;

- Reduce of energy consumption, environmental pollutant such as greenhouse gas, waste-heat, hazardous waste, etc.
- Reuse of waste heat/energy, etc.
- Recycle of fuel, etc.

In order to realize them, only the extension of the present technology is not enough. Interdisciplinary studies with innovative ideas are indispensable to realize the energy system for next generation.

We propose a new concept of Zero Emission Energy as a typical model of Advanced Energy. IAE Zero Emission Energy Research aims at the realization of environmentally friendly energy system for sustainable society with minimum emission of environmental pollutants and with maximum utilization of energy and resources. Since FY2011, we had operated a project, “Joint Usage/Research Program on Zero Emission Energy”, which is the program authorized by the MEXT. We have started the second term of the Program from FY2016. Here, we aim to (1) promote interdisciplinary joint usage/research studies for

Zero Emission Energy Science & Technology, (2) promote education & practical training for young researchers and (3) explore future horizon of Advanced Energy System for sustainable development. IAE provides many unique & attractive facilities for the Joint Usage/Research not only in the field of advanced plasma & quantum energy but also in the field of soft energy.

Many researchers have participated in this program. In FY2021 Joint Usage/Research collaborations of total 105 subjects (including two workshop) on Zero Emission Energy were performed with more than 300 visiting participants from 30 all-Japan Universities and Institutions including graduate/undergraduate students. Researchers from 6 foreign Universities also participated in the program. The results of these collaborations are summarized in a report "IAE Joint Usage/Research Program on Zero Emission Energy 2021". The meeting to present some of remarkable results obtained in FY2021 was held online on March 14, 2022. If you have interest to this collection, please contact to the Office of Zero Emission Energy Research.

In addition to the Joint Usage/Research collaborations, we organized "The 12th International Symposium of Advanced Energy Science -Research Activities on Zero-Emission Energy Network-" on September 7–8, 2021. This symposium was held online due to the COVID-19. This symposium consists of oral and poster sessions, and satellite meeting. 162 scientists and students including 3 foreign and 1 domestic invited speakers participated in the symposium. (http://www.iae.kyoto-u.ac.jp/zero_emission_e/ZCalendar/)

We are also operating “Zero Emission Energy Network” to share the knowledge of Advanced Energy and Zero Emission Energy with researchers in the fields of energy science and technology, since world-wide activities for Zero Emission Energy Research are indispensable for the realization of sustainable society.

In FY2021, the evaluation of all of the second term was conducted by MEXT for all the Joint Usage/Research Center Programs. Our program was given "A" evaluation. We were also approved as the Joint Usage/Research Center for the third term, which will begin in FY2022.



Poster of the 12th International Symposium

List of Zero Emission Energy Joint Usage/Research Subjects in FY 2021

(Subject, Principal Researcher, IAE Key Person)

Elucidation of Hopping Conduction in Lithium Excess Solvate Ionic Liquids, Atsushi Kitada, Masato Katahira

Study on lignin degradation by infrared free electron laser, Takayasu Kawasaki, Heishun Zen

Study of formation process of solute clusters in stainless steel with ion irradiation, Ken-ichi Fukumoto, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Photoinduced electron-transfer reactions of metal complexes as photosensitizers bound to the active site of enzyme, Hiroshi Takashima, Eiji Nakata

Elucidation of redox status-dependent mitochondrial temperature fluctuation towards the development of energy production system mimicking mitochondria, Reiko Sakaguchi, Takashi Morii

Development of anode/electrolyte interface for advanced Na-ion battery, Hiroki Sakaguchi, Toshiyuki Nohira

Chemical state analysis of borocarbides, Ryuta Kasada, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Generation and sustainment of high-energy density plasmas via the interaction between high power laser and structured medium, Yasuaki Kishimoto, Hiroshi Sakaguchi

Functionalization of amino sugar-containing polysaccharides using environmental microbes, Minoru Takeda, Masato Katahira

Interaction analysis between cellulase carbohydrate-binding module and lignin by ultra-high sensitivity NMR for biorefinery, Takashi Watanabe, Masato Katahira

Combined effect of irradiation and corrosion on hydrogen isotope permeation behavior in functional coatings for fusion reactor blanket, Takumi Chikada, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

NMR analysis on molecular mechanism of phase separation inhibition and elucidation of its physiological significance, Riki Kurokawa, Masato Katahira

Influence of Alloying Elements on Radiation Damage Formation and Hydrogen Isotope Trapping in Tungsten, Yuji Hatano, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Structural analysis of fluorine-containing compounds by NMR spectroscopy, Kazuhiko Matsumoto, Masato Katahira

Effect of high energy He ion implantation on hydrogen isotope behavior in tungsten, Yasuhisa Oya, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

The effects of dangling-bond on anodic dissolution of ceramics, Sosuke Kondo, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Development of biomaterial which improve gut microbiome and health of white-leg shrimp by using heat-stable carotenoid-producing *Bacillus* spores, Nguyen Thi Van Anh, Yumiko Takatsuka

High-Fluence Irradiation Behavior of Reduced Activation Fusion Reactor Materials and its Mechanical Property, Masami Ando, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Development of low-density stacked CNT target and fundamental process of the interaction by high-intensity laser irradiation, Ryutaro Matsui, Kazunari Matsuda

Electrodeposition of Si in Molten Salts Containing Silicate Ions towards the Production of Solar-Grade Silicon, Koji Yasuda, Toshiyuki Nohira

Development of the crystalline cellulose degradation system consisting of the psychrophilic fungus-type hybrid enzymes., Masataka Horiuchi, Takashi Nagata

Advanced thermal diffusivity evaluation method using D3 miniature specimens at elevated temperature., Masafumi Akiyoshi, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Study on optimization of alloying elements of tungsten alloys for improved irradiation tolerance, Shuhei Nogami, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Synergistic effects of electronic excitation and displacement damage in oxide/nitride ceramics, Kazuhiro Yasuda, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Hydrogen and helium mixed plasma irradiation effects on tungsten materials with rhenium, Yoshio Ueda, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Analysis of element distribution changes in solid lithium electrolyte generated by electro dialysis using rf-GD-OES, Kazuya Sasaki, Keisuke Mukai

Evaluation of irradiation resistance of high entropy oxide superconductors, Naoko Oono, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Study on development of compound-based anode for K-ion battery and on compatibility with ionic liquid electrolyte, Yasuhiro Domi, Takayuki Yamamoto

Development of Emissive Solid Materials Applicable to Luminescent Solar Concentrators, Masaki Shimizu, Hiroshi Sakaguchi

Development of pulsed laser deposition using infrared free electron laser, Takashi Nakajima, Heishun Zen

NMR analysis of peptides and nucleic acids that modulate biomolecular functions, Taiichi Sakamoto, Takashi Nagata

Irradiation and Material Variables Dependence of Bubbles/Voids Formation in Fusion Reactor Structural Materials, Takuya Yamamoto, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Generation of High intensity THz pulse by superposition of undulator superradiant, Shigeru Kashiwagi, Heishun Zen

Carrier diffusion process in silicide kankyo semiconductors revealed by mid-infrared free electron laser, Mamoru Kitaura, Heishun Zen

Structural study of DNA binding of the replication initiator ORC, Shou Waga, Masato Katahira

The temperature dependence of ductility in Al, Zr-added ODS ferritic steel treated under different MA atmospheres, Noriyuki Iwata, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Study of material development and interface design for all solid state Li-ion battery, Ikuma Takahashi, Keisuke Mukai

In-situ measurement of periodic nanostructures on semiconductor surface induced by mid-infrared free electron lasers, Masaki Hashida, Heishun Zen

Study on the impact of phase reconfiguration in unbalanced distribution systems, Vannak VAI, Hideaki Ohgaki

Application of mode-selective phonon-excitation method in semiconductors of energy functionality with mid-infrared free-electron laser, Kan Hachiya, Hideaki Ohgaki

Elucidation of ablation mechanism based on vibrational excitation in molding materials and surface modification by infrared free electron laser, Jun Fujioka, Heishun Zen

Clarification of hydrogen adsorption and desorption behavior for neutron multipliers for fusion applications, Jaehwan Kim, Keisuke Mukai

Analysis of transition from axisymmetric torus to helical axis toroidal plasma, Akio Sanpei, Kazunobu Nagasaki

Design and investigation of complexes comprising atom-layered materials, Susumu Okada, Kazunari Matsuda

Study on Thermal Radiation of Quantum Materials for Highly Efficient and Functional Energy Conversion, Satoru Konabe, Yuhei Miyauchi

Identification of quadruplexes that can regulate gene expression, Yoichiro Tanaka, Takashi Nagata

Surface processing of SiC achieved by combination of phonon excitation using FEL and electrochemistry, Kazuhiro Fukami, Heishun Zen

Development of reduced activation high entropy materials for high energy reactor, Naoyuki Hashimoto, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

The study of material degradation evaluation with irradiation hardening in tungsten for divertor, Kouichi Tougou, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Structural studies on hierarchical molecular architectures created in microfluidic device, Munenori Numata, Eiji Nakata

Study of Hydrogen Isotope Separation Technology by Molten Salt, Hisayoshi Matsushima, Toshiyuki Nohira

Development of tantalum added vanadium alloys for fusion reactors, Takeshi Miyazawa, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Spatially resolved measurement of atomic emission line spectra using NIR Zeeman spectroscopy, Taiichi Shikama, Shinichiro Kado

Nondestructive evaluation of residual elastic strain distribution around the interface between non-irradiated areas and ion irradiated area II, Tamaki Shibayama, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Study of the battery technology for Improving the Solar Home System (SHS) in Rural electrification, Nasrudin Abd Rahim, Hideaki Ohgaki

Development and application of organic spintronics materials toward energy-saving devices, Yusuke Miyake, Hiroshi Sakaguchi

Highly efficient photochemical reactions induced by optimal laser pulses, Yukiyoshi Ohtsuki, Takashi Nakajima

Dependence of the hardness increase caused by hydrogenation on irradiation temperature in ion-irradiated tungsten, Koichi Sato, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Clarification on retention processes of He and H in ion irradiated pyrochlore oxides, Bun Tsuchiya, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

NMR analysis of the three-dimensional solution structure of the sequence-specific RNA-binding protein Musashi1 involved in translation control of the downstream target RNA, Takao Imai, Takashi Nagata

A small-molecule-based technology for live-cell imaging of energy metabolism, Shinichi Sato, Takashi Morii

Research and development of enzymatic activity control using VHH antibody, Akifumi Takaori, Takashi Nagata

Time-series data analysis of Heliotron-J plasma by statistical modeling, Shigeru Inagaki, Kazunobu Nagasaki

Development of ultrasound-enhanced cell-internalization method and mechanism evaluation, Atsushi Harada, Eiji Nakata

Measurement of coherent edge radiation spectra during free-electron laser oscillations, Norihiro Sei, Hideaki Ohgaki

Study for the development of functional peptides using NMR, Hideki Kusunoki, Takashi Nagata

Hydrogen pickup of ion irradiated Zry alloys, Hideo Watanabe, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Study of spacial property of excitons in atomically thin layered materials using near-field scanning optical microscope, Masaru Sakai, Kazunari Matsuda

Effect of irradiation on Coated Materials for Tritium Barrier, Somei Ohnuki, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Quantitative relationship between plasma-produced reactive radical amount and biological/chemical reaction promotion, Hiroto Matsuura, Shinichiro Kado

Gas Ionization with Ultrafast Intense Long-Wavelength Infrared Pulses, Ryoichi Hajima, Heishun Zen

Development of an RNA eiding oligonucleotide to regulate the production and utilization of biological energy, Masatora Fukuda, Takashi Morii

Development of optical devices using the interface of layered material and nitride semiconductor, Shinichiro Mouri, Kazunari Matsuda

Ultra-Highly Sensitive DNA/RNA Sensor, Kazushige Yamana, Takashi Morii

Natural Convection Heat Transfer for Sugar Alcohols, Makoto Shibahara, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Impact of nonlinear wave-plasma interaction on electron cyclotron current drive (ECCD) in tokamak fusion reactor, Kenji Tobita, Kazunobu Nagasaki

Design of Staple oligoemr based on thermodynamic analysis, Yousuke Katsuda, Takashi Morii

Extension of operation regimes for advanced heliotron plasmas using stochastic electrostatic acceleration, Masayuki Yoshikawa, Shinji Kobayashi

Microstructural evolution of ODS Ferritic Steels during cold working process for Next generation Nuclear components, Sanghoon Noh, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Analysis of reaction mechanism of haloacid dehalogenase, Takashi Nakamura, Takashi Morii

Identification and characterization of novel antimicrobial cyclic lipopeptides derived from Bacillus sp., Kenji Yokota, Tomijiro Hara

Elucidation of the shrimp growth promoting mechanisms of dietary supplementation with bacillus spores, Tsuyoshi Ohira, Tomijiro Hara

Developmental research on microbial community structure analysis and biopest applications in medicinal plant cultivation, Makoto Ueno, Tomijiro Hara

Formation and crystalline characterization of periodic nanostructures on semiconductor substrates irradiated by intense mid-infrared laser pulses, Ozaki Hashida, Heishun Zen

Development of high-speed camera image analysis method using magnetic field information, Nobuhiro Nishino, Shinichiro Kado

Development of a method for compoiting Li₂TiO₃ and nanocarbon by microwave irradiation, Sadatsugu Takayama, Keisuke Mukai

Supramolecular assembling regulation of bacterial cell division protein FtsZ on DNA nanostructures, Akira Onoda, Eiji Nakata

Dissociation of poly-amino acid aggregates by free electron laser irradiation, Kazuhiro Nakamura, Heishun Zen

Determination of the free energy of the late-blooming phase (3), Yoshitaka Matsukawa, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Study of ion irradiation effects on oxide dispersion strengthened ferritic steel, Jingjie Shen, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Fluorescent analyses of biomolecules and metals using cephem compounds, Ippei Takashima, Eiji Nakata

Study on emission process of scintillation material using the one electron beam and evaluation of scintillation properties for darkmater search, Shunsuke Kurosawa, Hideaki Ohgaki

Deuterium desorption from heavy ion irradiated tungsten using isothermal desorption method, Naoko Ashikawa, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Influence of irradiation defects on the tritium removal behavior from tungsten by hydrogen isotope exchange, Mingzhong Zhao, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Clarification of fine structure of environmentally compatible hydroxyapatite capsules, Takeshi Yabutsuka, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Conductivity Enhancement Mechanism of NASICON-type Lithium Ion Conductive Composite, Shigeomi Takai, Takashi Morii

The effect of ion beam irradiation on the properties of heavily doped nanocrystals, Masanori Sakamoto, Kiyohiro Yabuuchi

Carbon dioxide gas fixation by laser irradiation response to calculus forming bacteria., Tetsuro Kono, Hideaki Ohgaki

Analyses of Electroretinograms from crayfish's compound eyes evoked by KU-FEL irradiation: Fast and Late reaction, Fumio Shishikura, Hideaki Ohgaki

Measurement of scintillation response by fast neutron, Kenichi Fushimi, Keisuke Mukai

Statistical analysis on edge turbulence fluctuation data in Heliotron-J, Yoshihiko Nagashima, Shinsuke Ohshima

Distributed Workshop on "Physics and control of non-linear and non-equilibrium plasma based on the concept of broad-band energy science", Yasuaki Kishimoto, Kazunari Matsuda

Study on how to make zero emission infrastructure more social resilient by advanced ICT, Hidekazu Yoshikawa, Kazunori Morishita

KU-FEL User Symposium 2021, Mamoru Kitaura, Heishun Zen

Investigation for experimental simulation of space plasmas using magnetically confined configurations, Kenichi Nagaoka, Heishun Zen

5. COLLABORATION WORKS IN THE LABORATORY FOR COMPLEX ENERGY PROCESSES

Collaboration Works in The Laboratory for Complex Energy Processes

1. Introduction

The laboratory was established for research on advanced energy by the collaborative projects among the researchers in the Institute of Advanced Energy to promote joint activity of our knowledge and wisdom to find solutions to these interdisciplinary energy/environmental problems. From such a viewpoint, the research targets of the laboratory are focused on two specific fields, (i) "advanced studies of science and technology on plasma energy and quantum energy" and (ii) "innovative studies of nano-bio functional materials for power generation". For this purpose, two sections (A2 and A3 mentioned below) are founded. In addition, A1 section promotes international or domestic collaborative research and assists activities such as academic meetings and seminars. In the fiscal year of 2021, the pandemic of COVID-19 had a significant impact on the actual implementation of the collaborative activity, because the traffic and actual meeting were strictly avoided.

Despite the difficulty in organizing the cooperative research program, however, close connection between related research fields in the institute have yielded unique and interesting outcomes from the collaboration. The laboratory takes charge of organizing and promoting the cooperative research project as a center of research activity in the Institute. The research teams were formed by mostly young generation staffs and students in the institute lead by associate professor or assistant professor, and participated in specific projects to carry out their subjects. The cooperative research activities will be published in a publication edited in the laboratory at the end of the fiscal year. Management of the technical staffs for large scale equipment are also under the responsibility of the laboratory.

A1 Division of International and Industrial Partnership

This division promotes international collaborative research on advanced energy to lead the field of energy science and technology as a worldwide pioneer. For this purpose, the symposium and the workshop organized by institution member are usually

supported, however in this fiscal year, to reduce the risk of the infection was given the highest priority, and no meetings or exchange was planned.

A2 Division of Plasma and Quantum Energy Research

This section promotes studies on advanced plasmas and quantum energy for realizing future energy systems, integrating plasma energy science and advanced energy material research. In particular, based on the results obtained in our related groups, we aim at extending the research fields and contributing to human society by utilizing the existing key devices such as Heliotron J, DuET, MUSTER and inertial electrostatic confinement (IEC) device, which have been developed in the institute.

A3 Division of Soft Energy Science Research

This division promotes studies on emergent materials and systems for realizing next generation soft energy system. In particular, functional nano- and bio-materials to efficiently utilize solar energy and bio-energy are studied by integrating laser science, nanotechnology, and bio-technology. We aim at extending our research fields by utilizing the existing devices such as System for Creation and Functional Analysis of Catalytic Materials, SEMs, SPM, Solar Simulator, KU-FEL and various laser systems.

2. The cooperative research program

In the fiscal year of 2021, two categories were set up: (1) "Cooperative Research" for cross sectional research proposal by either Associate or Assistant Professor and (2) "Sprouting Research" for challenging research proposal by Assistant Professor. The submitted proposals were evaluated by the selection committee organized by a center director, a program chair and three division chairs. One "Cooperative Research" proposal and four "Sprouting Research" proposals were approved. The number of research subjects is listed in Table 1 according to the division. A brief summary of the cooperative research subjects carried out in FY2021 is shown in the next page.

Table 1 Number of the accepted research subjects according to the division
The whole sum 5

Category			Total
A1	A2	A3	
0	1	4	5

The individual research subjects are as follows.

Cooperative Research

A3

“Development of chemical methods to stabilize DNA nanomaterials for handling biomass-related enzymes”

- A. Rajendran, T. Morii, E. Nakata (Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.)

Sprouting Research

A2

“New approach for the study of plasma physics utilizing the open magnetic field region”

- S. Ohshima, S. Kobayashi (Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.)
- R. Matoike, A. Miyashita (Grad. Sch. Energy Sci., Kyoto Univ.)

A3

“Clarification of fundamental optical properties of moire superstructure”

- K. Shinokita (Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.)

“Electrochemical synthesis of alkaline earth metal-graphite interaction compounds and applications to rechargeable batteries”

- T. Yamamoto (Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.)

“Evaluation of the structure and dynamics of nucleic acids in living human cell”

- Y. Yamaoki, M. Katahira, T. Nagata (Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.)

The Laboratory Seminars

Laboratory Seminars

The Laboratory promotes topical academic seminars in order to strengthen the research activities in each research section and to enhance the mutual cooperation among a lot of academic fields. In the fiscal year of 2021, the aims and progress reports of five cooperative researches were presented and discussed, as summarized below. The Laboratory also planned a symposium on April 8, 2022 for presentation of the cooperative research results in FY2021.

(1) October 20, 2021

A. Rajendran

“Development of chemical methods to stabilize DNA nanomaterials for handling biomass-related enzymes”

Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.

(2) November 10, 2021

K. Shinokita

“Development of optical science in atomically-thin semiconductors”

Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.

(3) November 30, 2021

Y. Yamaoki

“Evaluation of the structure and dynamics of nucleic acids in living human cell”

Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.

(4) December 22, 2021

T. Yamamoto

“Development of next-generation rechargeable batteries using ionic liquid electrolytes”

Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.

(5) January 11, 2022

S. Ohshima

“New approach for the study of plasma physic utilizing the open magnetic field region”

Inst. Adv. Energy, Kyoto Univ.

6. PROJECTS WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

NIFS Bilateral Collaboration Research Program on Heliotron J

The Heliotron J group at IAE, Kyoto University has joined the Bilateral Collaboration Research Program managed by National Institute for Fusion Science (NIFS) since FY2004. This unique collaboration program promotes joint research bilaterally between NIFS and research institutes or research centers of universities that have facilities for nuclear fusion research. Under this collaboration scheme, the facilities operated in the different universities are open to all fusion researchers just as joint-use facilities of NIFS.

The main objective of the research in our Heliotron J group under this joint research program is to investigate experimentally/theoretically the transport and stability of fusion plasma in the advanced helical magnetic field and to improve the plasma performance through advanced helical-field control in Heliotron J. Picked up in FY2021 are the following seven key-topics; (1) transport study concerning field configuration control and relating plasma structure formation control, (2) control of plasma profile, plasma flows, plasma current for confinement improvement, (3) investigation of structure formation of plasma fluctuations in the core and peripheral region, (4) enhancement of operation region of high-density plasmas using novel fueling methods, (5) optimization of particle supply and heating scenario, (6) development of new technology in experiment and analysis.

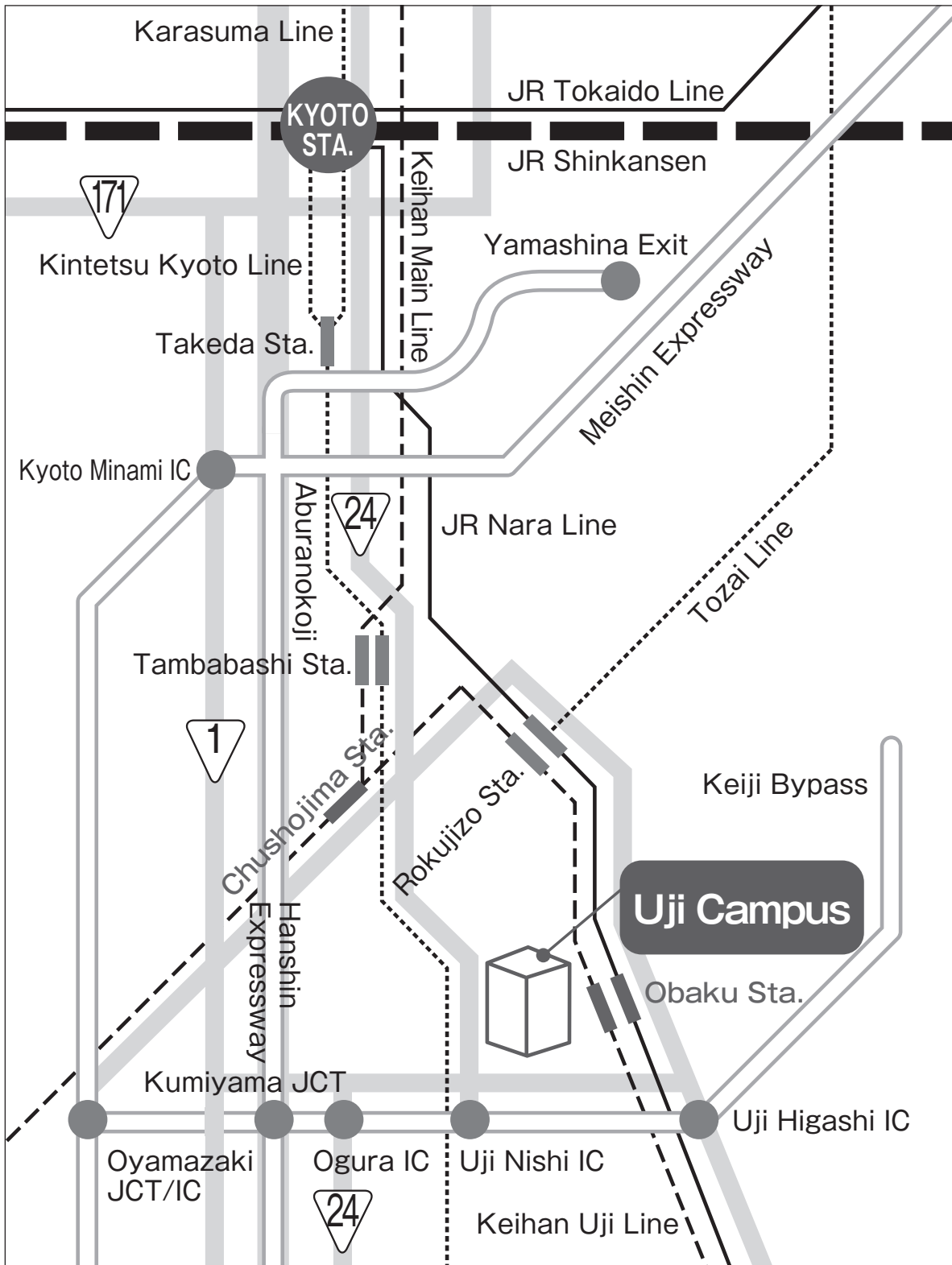
Two results from this collaboration research in FY2021 are shortly reported below. The annual report for all the collaboration subjects in this program will be published by NIFS.

Magnetic configuration effect on energy confinement properties and profile structure formation: In the Heliotron J device, which has extensive and precise magnetic field controllability, the bumpiness component (toroidal mirror ratio) in the magnetic field spectrum is a characteristic control knob for neoclassical transport, MHD, and fast ion confinement to verify the effectiveness of the configuration optimization. We have recently expanded the magnetic field configuration range in the experiments and have focused on rotational transform control experiments. Controlling the rotational transform makes it possible to investigate the dependence of the confinement properties on the rotational transform and its physical mechanism that appears in the scaling laws. In addition, it is possible to control the rational surfaces, which determine the structure of the peripheral magnetic field by changing the rotational transform, thereby significantly changing the topology of the peripheral magnetic field. Experiments were performed by varying the central rotation transform from 0.46 to 0.63 while keeping the line-averaged density at about $1 \times 10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}$.

The ECH injection conditions and magnetic field strength are adjusted to achieve central heating. The overall trend is that the confinement energy decreases with increasing rotational transform. To investigate the effect of rotational transform control on neoclassical transport, we compared the confinement time with the effective helical ripple, ε_{eff} . The effective helical ripple scan shows a gradually increasing trend with increasing rotational transform. However, the correlation with W_p is unclear. This suggests that rotational transform may affect turbulent transport as well as neoclassical transport. In the future, we plan to conduct neoclassical analysis and turbulence simulation analysis, including the effect of geodesic curvature.

Formation of electron internal transport barrier (e-ITB) in NBI only plasmas Role of preionization in NBI plasma start-up and stochastic acceleration phenomena: Producing plasmas using NBI only has never been successful in medium-sized helical devices. We have used non-resonant microwaves for pre-ionization and have successfully produced NBI plasmas. Pre-ionization generates a plasma of $n_e = 4 \times 10^{18} \text{ m}^{-3}$, and the carbon ion emission (OV) peak is observed at 3 ms after NBI injection. The dependence of the OV peak delay time on the density of the pre-ionized plasma is investigated. A numerical code for 0-dimensional NBI production has been developed. The simulation results agree with the experimental plasma evolution. The radiation barrier temperature of light impurities such as carbon and oxygen, and the threshold value for the density of pre-ionized plasma reproduces the measurement. The simulation results clearly show that the pre-ionizing plasma (1) produces enough NBI fast ions, which in turn (2) heats the background plasma and (3) ionizes the background gas to promote fast ion production, which contributes to the positive feedback. On the other hand, high-energy electrons exceeding 2 MeV are observed in the pre-ionized plasma from synchrotron radiation measurements. Since no resonance layer for microwaves of 2.45 GHz is located in the vacuum vessel, stochastic interaction between the microwave electric field and electrons (statistical acceleration) may be the mechanism of energetic electron generation. In Heliotron J, plasma production is usually performed by second harmonic ECH heating at 70 GHz, but in this case, the magnetic field strength must be fixed around 1.25T. The technique using pre-ionization enables NBI discharges at 0.6 T to 1.4 T, which can be combined with novel fueling methods such as pellet injection and high-intense gas puffing to perform operational scenarios for high-beta experiments.

7. HOW TO GET TO THE IAE



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