17. Neutron Inelastic Scattering Study on Superconducting and Parent Phases of the Ba(Fe,Co)₂As₂ System

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We will report recent results of single-crystal growth and inelastic neutron scattering measurements on superconducting Ba(Fe,Co)₂As₂ and its parent compound BaFe₂As₂. For both the systems, large single crystals of the typical size 10x4x2mm³ were obtained using the vertical Bridgman technique [1]. In the parent compound, inelastic neutron scattering using single-crystals reveals a spin-wave-like excitation mode centered at the antiferromagnetic Bragg points with the gap energy being 9.8 meV at the base temperature [2]. The spin-wave-like mode has a steep in-plane dispersion with a velocity 280 meV Å, whereas relatively weak dispersion was seen along the *c*-axis. In addition, a two-dimensional excitation continuum appears at higher energies $\hbar \omega > 20$ meV, suggesting electron-hole excitations in this energy range. As the temperature is elevated, the excitation gap closes, and above the Neel temperature, gapless spin fluctuations of much two-dimensional nature dominate the excitation spectrum. The inelastic response in the superconducting phase will be also presented.

References

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Inelastic Neutron Scattering Measurements on Single Crystal BaFe₂As₂

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R. Morinaga et al., Jpn. J. Appl. Phys. 48, 013004 (2009) K. Matan, et al., arXiv:0810.4790



- Magnetism in FeAs compounds
- Inelastic neutron scattering on single-crystal BaFe₂As₂
- Spin fluctuations above T_N
- Preliminary results on superconducting sample
- × Summary







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- Correlation length ξ ~ 100 Å ~ 40 times nearest neighbor distance.
- Temperature dependence shows a peak at T_N, coinciding with the onset of magnetic Bragg peak.
- The sharp drop on the low temperature is due to opening of the spin gap.
- The slow decrease on the high temperature side is a result of critical scattering.
- $\bullet \quad \mbox{We do not observe the divergence of correlation length at T_N.}$

Spin fluctuations exist despite first-order magnetic transition reported in ⁷⁵As NMR*. * Kitagawa et al., J. Phys. Soc. Jpn 77, 114709 (2008)





• Can they be responsible for superconductivity?





Summary

- In the ordered state, we observe low energy spin-wave-like excitations with a spin gap (origin of the gap is not clear).
- $\approx~$ At $T_N,$ the gap closes, and we observe spin fluctuations with large inplane correlation length.

Goal I : Anisotropic magnetic interactions

- $\times~v_c/v_{ab}$ ~ 0.2 smaller than SrFe_2As_2 and CaFe_2As_2 but much larger than cuprates.
- \approx Above T_N, we observe rod-like scattering along L, attesting the two-dimensionality of this system.

Goal II: Itinerant magnetism

 At higher energy, we observe anisotropic scattering on top of spin waves (the Stoner electron-hole continuum?).

18. Spectroscopic-Imaging STM on a PrFeAsO_{0.7} Single Crystal

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Recent developments of STM technology have enabled us to map conductance (dI/dV)images at various energies over wide field of view. One of the important applications of this spectroscopic-imaging STM (SI-STM) is that momentum-space electronic states can be explored through the Fourier analyses of the quasi-particle interference (QPI) patterns which appear in *dI/dV* images. In superconductors, characteristic scattering vectors for QPI contain information not only on the Fermi surface but also on the superconducting gap. QPI measurements in cuprate high- T_c superconductors have proven to be a powerful technique to determine the superconducting-gap dispersion in momentum space [1-3]. Recently, it has been shown that the phase of the superconducting gap can be highlighted in QPI patterns by introducing vortices as controllable quasi-particle scatters [2]. This effect is associated with the coherence factor of the vortex scattering and provides us with a new phase-sensitive approach for the superconducting gap [2]. In order to investigate the superconducting gap structure in an ion-oxipnictide superconductor, we have performed SI-STM on a PrFeAs_{0.7} single crystal, especially paying attention to the possible s_{\pm} -symmetry [5]. Cleaved surface consists of two distinct atomic layers: FeAs and PrO planes. When measurement was done on the FeAs plane, clear atomic image was observed but the dI/dV spectrum does not show clear superconducting gap. dl/dV images exhibit normal-state QPI patterns which may be associated with the surface state. The PrO plane is rather unstable and individual atoms can not be identified in the topograph but the dI/dV spectrum shows clear gap structure. We discuss several implications of the observations,

References

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- [4] T. Hanaguri et al., Science, in press.
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Summary

- Quasi-particle interference patterns under magnetic fields include information on the **phase** of the superconducting gap. This provides us with a new method to determine the symmetry of the superconducting gap using STM.
- The top-most FeAs surface layer of cleaved PrFeAsO_{0.7} does not show superconductivity but clear interference patterns of normal quasi-particles were discovered.
- The effective mass of the surface band is anomalously heavy. (~ $8m_0$)

Prospects

Search for SC signals
- "clean" PrO layer?
- FeSe system (with Dr. Niitaka, RIKEN)



19. Transport and High-Pressure Study Overview

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The iron-based superconductors are the second type of high- T_c superconductors with their maximum $T_{\rm c}$ exceeding 50 K, which is the highest besides cuprate superconductors. In order to understand the high- T_c mechanism, it is important to elucidate the similarities and differences of these two types of superconductors. In this presentation, I will compare the characteristic features of the two systems in terms of the transport properties and the pressure effects. The most characteristic feature of the iron-based superconductors is the non-linearity of the Hall resistivity with the magnetic field, which likely reflects the multiband nature of the compound [1]. The temperature- and the doping- dependence of the Hall coefficient (R_H) in the low field limit are rather small except for that in the so-called SDW phase. This is in contrast with the behavior of the cuprate superconductors, in which $R_{\rm H}$ scales with the number of doped carriers. Hydrostatic pressure dramatically affects $T_{\rm c}$ in the iron-based compounds [2], while the pressure dependence strongly depends on the materials. The behavior cannot be explained based on the simple carrier doping picture, which has been applicable in the case of the cuprate superconductors. It is more likely to be correlated with the change in the local structural parameters, such as As-Fe-As bond angle of the FeAs₄ tetrahedron [3]. These experimental results highlight the differences rather than similarities between the two types of high- T_c superconductors, suggesting the existence of another route to achieve high- T_c superconductivity.

References

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Transport and High-pressure Study Overview

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Collaborators

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(JAEA))	M. Ishikado, S. Shamoto, M. Arai (sample synthesis	, transport, diffraction)
Ritz#	K. Yamada, M. Braden, M.T. Fernandez-Diaz (neutron scattering)	
	M.Nakajima, S. Ishida, S. Uchida	(transport)
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36 hours



Outline

1. Pressure effect

Q) What determines $T_{\rm c}$ of iron arsenide superconductors ?

<u>correlation between crystal structure and T_c through artificial modification of crystal structure</u>

2. Transport properties

- Q) What is the difference between iron arsenide and cuprate superconductors ?
 - <u>nonlinear transport</u>
 - <u>comparison of their transport properties</u>

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Pressure effect





Transport Properties





- Low density of states of carriers
- Relatively strong electron-phonon coupling
- Tc is expected ~2.6K

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Electron-phonon superconductivity in LaNiPO

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We report first-principles calculations of the electronic structure, phonon dispersions, and electron-phonon coupling of LaNiPO. These calculations show that this material can be explained as a conventional electron-phonon superconductor in contrast to the FeAs based high-temperature superconductors.

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"Sign reversal in the field dependence of the Hall effect in YZn..." J.-P. Jan, N.L. Martin, and A. Wenger, Phys. Rev. B **9**, 1377 (1974).

$$\rho_{xy} = \frac{B \left[\sigma_{e}^{2} R_{e} + \sigma_{b}^{2} R_{b} + \sigma_{e}^{2} \sigma_{b}^{2} R_{e} R_{b} (R_{e} + R_{b}) B^{2}\right]}{\left[(\sigma_{e}^{2} + \sigma_{b})^{2} + \sigma_{e}^{2} \sigma_{b}^{2} (R_{e}^{2} + R_{b})^{2} B^{2}\right]}$$

($\sigma_{\rm e}$ and $R_{\rm e}$ ($\sigma_{\rm h}$ and $R_{\rm h}$); conductivities and Hall coefficients for electrons (holes))

$$\rho_{xy} = \frac{B(1/e) \left[n_{\rm h} \mu_{\rm h}^2 - n_{\rm e} \mu_{\rm e}^2 + (n_{\rm h} - n_{\rm e}) \mu_{\rm h}^2 \mu_{\rm e}^2 B^2 \right]}{\left[(n_{\rm h} \mu_{\rm h} + n_{\rm e} \mu_{\rm e})^2 + (n_{\rm h} - n_{\rm e})^2 \mu_{\rm h}^2 \mu_{\rm e}^2 B^2 \right]}$$

($n_{\rm e}$ and $\mu_{\rm e}$ ($n_{\rm h}$ and $\mu_{\rm h}$); carrier numbers and mobility of electrons (holes))

$$(a = n_{\rm h}/n_{\rm e}, b = \mu_{\rm h}/\mu_{\rm e})$$

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Summary

- Possible correlation between geometrical factors in tetrahedron like bond angle and superconductivity
- Nonlinear transport due to multiband nature
- Small doping- and T-dependence of Hall coefficient in contrast to the behavior of the cuprates

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