量子秩序研究グループ 最終レビュー報告

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[レビュア 1]

光科学と物質科学は共に我が国が世界をリードする分野であり、この2つを融合させることでシナジー効果を狙った本研究目標は、時機を得た適切なものと判断する。

高田構造科学研究室と3つのチーム―スピン秩序チーム、空間秩序チーム、励起秩序チーム―から成り、それぞれの分野で世界的な成果を挙げており、高く評価できる。最先端の軌道放射光施設の特長―平行性、高輝度性―を生かし、ナノスケールの電荷密度、静電ポテンシャルのイメージング、種々の物質の電子構造・磁気構造の決定、ナノ空間の創製とそこでの分子状態の解明、固体から、水、生体分子に亘る広範囲の物質群の励起状態の研究、など現在最も興味が持たれている物質、現象に鋭く切り込んでいる。理研内外との共同研究も積極的に推進しており、多数のプレス発表や6回を数えるワークショップ開催などで、社会や研究者コミュニティーへの成果発信にも尽力した。

[レビュア 2]

この研究は、SPring-8 の機能をフルに活用すると同時に最先端の材料科学に活用できるような装置の開発を含めた意欲的なプロジェクトで7年間に渡り実行された。研究グループは、大きく3つに分けられ夫々、Spin order, Spatial order, Excitation order からなる。それぞれの研究目標の設定は、新規性、学問的意義ともに十分であった。但し、order のネーミングには少々抵抗を感じた。物性物理分野では、order を議論するなら order parameter に触れねばならないが、ここでは殆ど無関係であったようである。

研究成果として当方の視点で高く評価したいのは、

- ・偏光 X-線によるヘリカル磁性のキラリテイの識別。
- ·X-線による磁気ドメインのイメージング
- ・電荷分布イメージングを可能にした点。
- ・ナノ空間制御を自己組織化で可能にし、低分子物質の脱吸着制御を示した点。
- ・軟X線回折による超高分解能角度分解光電子放出スペクトロスコピーの開発。
- ・タンパク質、液体、固体界面、固液界面の電子状態などの解明。

など枚挙に糸目がないくらいである。

発表論文、国内外での発表、新聞記事などかなり多いと言える。

研究グループの運営は、順調のように見受けられた。6回のワークショップも充実していたようである。但し、研究員のプロジェクト参加状況を見るとかなり出入りが多いようである。出来ればポスドクの専従期間を長めにとり、落ち着いた研究をさせたかった。

総合的には、この研究は、次世代の材料科学に新しい方法、考え方を持ち込む重要な意義があったと言える。出来れば、可能なものに関しては、特許取得等知財を固め、将来、JSTやNEDOのプロジェクトに発展するようになると産学との連携も進み、基礎から応用、実用までつながった素晴らしい成果が挙がるであろう。

[レビュア3]

1) Spin Order team

Spin Order team succeeded in observing magnetic scattering from complicated spin orders and determined the magnetic structures with fine control of beam polarization relative to the spin direction or chirality of magnetic materials. They also tune the beam energy to utilize resonance conditions. These techniques were successfully applied for example, to Sr₂IrO₄. Analyzing the spectrum of resonant scattering at the L₃ and L₂ edges, they revealed that the orbital momentum is not quenched at each Ir₄₊ ion to form the J_{eff}=1/2 electronic state. They also observed a two-dimensional short-range magnetic correlation well above Neel temperature by magnetic resonant x-ray diffuse scattering. The observation of the weak magnetic diffuse scattering by x-ray scattering is very important to expand the research field of x-ray magnetic scattering.

This team, therefore, has overcome disadvantage of x-ray magnetic scattering compared to neutron due to the weak interaction with spins and orbital moment. On the contrary, they have shown the valuable advantage of x-ray magnetic scattering. For example, in x-ray magnetic scattering one can separate orbital and spin component and can measure highly neutron absorbing atoms such as Cd or Ir.

As already shown in some topics by this team, the complementary use of neutron scattering particularly the use of polarized neutron scattering will expand the accessible research fields and materials and extract more detailed information from the obtained magnetic scattering.

2) Spatial Order team

This team has introduced a new concept of "coordination space materials", which convinced us an indispensable role of controlling their structures and functionality of spaces for the development of novel materials with new functions. The experimental system newly constructed by this team at a beamline of SPring-8, which combines synthesis and control of coordination space materials, and structure characterization by synchrotron x-ray beam, played a vital role for the effective synthesis and control of coordination space materials.

Newly discovered functions by this team, magnetic chemo-switching by incorporating functional sites and magnetic bistability in the porous framework are very interesting as well as important since both of them will open a new role of spins in functional materials.

3) Excitation Order team

Development of high energy-resolution spectroscopy in the soft x-ray (SX) region conducted by the Excitation Order team is very impressive. In addition to many fruitful scientific outputs over a wide range of scientific field this team opened up a new vista of SX spectroscopy for materials science and convinced us the vast potential of the 3GeV class third generation type SX synchrotron radiation source.

Among many scientific outputs the research on water and related materials is particularly important. Elucidation of hydrogen-bonding state in liquid water has been a longstanding problem of basic as well as applied sciences. By using spectroscopic technique this team revealed the coexisting two types of bonding state depending on the local structure in water, which is against a widely believed unstructured continuum model of the liquid. A subsequent study on water in organic solvent confirmed that the water molecules cannot make tetrahedral-like local structure in the solution because of a shortage of water molecules.

4) Future prospect

As written in the executive summary, this project has created a starting point to establish a framework for promoting seeds and needs of advanced photon science. In other words, the first stage of the Quantum Ordering project will be summarized as "one-dimensional" research done by each individual team. It is highly encouraged to create two or three-dimensional research in the near future. We expect that the research of each Order will expand the field and create new cutting-edge sciences as well as materials through "crosstalk" among these teams or outside research groups. In fact, some of the crosstalk has already been started for example, between Spin Order and Spatial Order such as magnetic chemo-switching by incorporating functional sites or magnetic bistability in the porous framework. In the near future, the dynamics of the

coexisting two bonding states in water will be an interesting crosstalk research. In this case, the crosstalk with x-ray or neutron inelastic scattering will be effective to study the dynamical pair correlation function of water. The crosstalk between Excitation Order and Spatial Order is also promising. For example, stability of two bonding states in water should be investigated in the confined space of coordination space materials.

5) Summary

The great success of the Quantum Ordering project was achieved by the combination of the research members with outstanding scientific abilities with the appropriate choice of three types of Ordering (Spin Order, Spatial Order, Excitation Order) as a basic framework of this project research. It should be emphasized that this project not only created many cutting-edge scientific outputs but also demonstrated high potentiality of synchrotron x-ray beam for materials science. Particularly, the instrumental developments achieved in this project are very important since they proved experimentally that the synchrotron x-ray beam is a versatile as well as invaluable probe for materials science. Each team of this project properly controlled "degree of freedom" of synchrotron x-ray beam such as polarization, energy tunability and flexibility to research condition.

In conclusion, the following two missions of the project are sufficiently achieved.

- 1) To build new bridges between Photon Science and Materials Science
- 2) To Elucidate Electronic Quantum Order in Materials

[レビュア4]

本グループは光科学と材料科学の間に新しい橋をかけることで材料科学のフロンティアの拡大と、高輝度量子ビームを活用した物質中の電子的量子秩序の解明という 2 つの目的のためには発足した。際立った業績を有する GL+TL の下で優れた成果を挙げたと評価できる。

すなわち、酸化物結晶中の遷移金属の電荷・軌道・スピンが絡む諸現象の解明、酸素貯蔵タンパクの酸素吸着メカニズム、水の構造の解明、光による MOF のガス吸着特性の高選択化など広範囲な物質系について SPring-8 のビームラインを駆使してならではの成果を挙げている。これらの成果は、visibility の高い国際論文誌の掲載されており、世界トップ水準の成果といえよう。また、毎年、公開の WS を開催し、成果を発信しているのも評価できる。