令和 6 年度 共同利用成果報告書 目次

- 1. 大型設備の経過報告
 - 1.1 ライナック経過報告
 - 1.2 重照射(HIT)経過報告
 - 1.3 ブランケット経過報告
- 2. 共同利用成果報告(F, L, H, Y 各シリーズ)
 - 2.1 弥生オフパイル(F シリーズ):計 5/6 テーマ(別表)
 - 2.2 ライナック(L シリーズ):計 4/8 テーマ(別表)
 - 2.3 重照射(H シリーズ):計 6/10 テーマ(別表)
 - 2.4 弥生研究会(Y シリーズ):計 0/3 テーマ(別表)
- 3. 令和6年度専攻内行事一覧
- 4. 各種委員会名簿
- 5. 令和 6 年度 UTNL レポート

2024度 共同利用テーマー覧 (Fシリーズ)

採番	テーマ名称	テーマ 代表者		実験参加 代表者		専攻内 幹事	
2024 F 01	V&Vのための精度保証実験データベー ス構築	岡本	孝司	岡本	孝司	三輪	修一郎
2024 F 02	Xバンド加速器の応用研究	長谷川	秀一	長谷川	秀一	長谷川	秀一
2024 F 03	電子ライナック駆動小型中性子源の 開発と利用	長谷川	秀一	長谷川	秀一	長谷川	秀一
2024 F 04	レーザーを用いた核物質分光分析シ ステムの検討	長谷川	秀一	寺林	稜平	長谷川	秀一
2024 F 05	腐食特性を向上させたZr基、Fe基合 金の開発	阿部	弘亨	李	博	李	博
2024 F 06	非晶質バリア材料の廃棄体特性評価	斉藤	拓巳	斉藤	拓巳	斉藤	拓巳

2024年度のFシリーズの研究テーマは6件 (うち新規0件)

2024度 共同利用テーマー覧 (Lシリーズ)

採番	テーマ名称	テーマ 代表者		実験参加 代表者		専攻内 幹事	
2024 L 01	 水溶液の放射線効果の研究 	山下	真一	山下	真一	山下	真一
2024 L 02	パルス&プローブ法を用いる超高速 反応の研究	室屋	裕佐	室屋	裕佐	山下	真一
2024 L 03	不定比金属組成、微細組織を制御し た超伝導体結晶のピンニング特性に 及ぼす電子線照射効果	下山	淳一	下山	淳一	坂上	和之
2024 L 04	フォトカソード RF 電子銃の高性能 化	坂上	和之	坂上	和之	坂上	和之
2024 L 05	高速応答シンチレータの開発と性能 評価	越水	正典	越水	正典	山下	真一
2024 L 06	MA分離抽出剤の放射線分解メカニズ ムの研究	樋川	智洋	樋川	智洋	山下	真一
2024 L 07	放射線誘起活性種の時間分解ラマン 分光	山下	真一	山下	真一	山下	真一
2024 L 08	レーザー光科学と量子ビーム科学の 融合領域形成	坂上	和之	坂上	和之	坂上	和之
2024 S 01	フェムト秒ライナックのためのマシ ンスタディ	坂上	和之	坂上	-	坂上	和之

2024年度のLシリーズの研究テーマは9件 (うち新規0件)

2024度 共同利用テーマー覧 (Hシリーズ)

採番	テーマ名称	テーマ 代表者	実験参加 代表者	= .	
2024 H 01	先進原子炉構造材の照射効果	阿部 弘亨	李博	李博	
2024 H 02	原子炉構造材料の照射劣化機構の研 究	藤井 克彦	三浦 照光	李博	
2024 H 03	核融合炉材料の照射効果	阿部 弘亨	李博	李博	
2024 H 04	大強度陽子加速器標的環境に耐えう る新材料の照射損傷の基礎研究	牧村 俊助	牧村 俊助	李 博	
2024 H 05	イオン照射を用いた照射劣化モデル 化研究	村上健太	村上 健太	李博	
2024 H 06	Ion irradiation effects on microstructure and hardness changes of high purity vanadium alloys	申 晶潔	申 晶潔	李博	
2024 H 07	低放射化ハイエントロピー合金の照 射損傷組織に及ぼすガス原子の影響	橋本 直幸	橋本 直幸	李博	
2024 H 08	Irradiation effects of Zr-based and Fe-based accident tolerant fuel claddings	YANG Huilong	YANG Huilong	李 博	
2024 H 09	金属クロム合金およびモリブデン合 金の放射線損傷	CUI LIJUAN	李 博	李 博	
2024 H 10	核融合炉用機能性被覆における反跳 粒子の影響	近田 拓未	近田 拓未	李 博	
2024 S 02	イオンビーム実習: イオンビーム照射による原子力材料 の照射損傷実験	阿部弘亨		李 博	

2024年度のHシリーズの研究テーマは11件 (うち新規3件)

2024度 共同利用テーマー覧 (Yシリーズ)

採番	テーマ名称	場所時期, 開催場所	主催者	申請者
2024 Y 01	原子力専攻施設共同利用成果報告会 (15)	8月頃, 本郷または オンライン (仮)	斉藤拓巳	阿部弘亨
2024 Y 02	光を利用した技術とその応用(9)	9月頃, 東海村(仮)	長谷川秀一	長谷川秀一
2024 Y 03	界面の放射線効果に関する研究会 (8)	3月頃, 本郷・東海 村・オンラ イン (予 定)	山下真一	山下真一

2024年度のYシリーズの弥生研究会は3件 (うち新規0件)

2024F-01

V&V のための精度保証実験データベース構築

岡本孝司、三輪修一郎、鈴木俊一、横山諒、Zeeshan Ahmed, Ravinder Kumar, Xu Ruicong 東京大学

原子力発電所の安全設計、シビアアクシデント評価や、福島第一原子力発電所廃炉に関する研究を行っている。実機条件を評価するためのシミュレーション技術開発に加えて、シミュレーションの検証、妥当性確認と不確かさ定量化(V&V/VVUQ)を推進するための基礎実験を実施している。

<u>+-7- Γ</u>: aggregation, eutectic reaction ,Fukushima-decommissioning

1. Eutectic Melting Phenomenon between Stainless Steel and B₄C

In severe nuclear accidents, eutectic melting between B₄C and stainless governs the relocation, solidification, and composition of molten materials, and thus must be understood under plant-realistic conditions. Visualization experiments conducted last year with powder- and pellet-form B₄C showed that the initial geometry affects eutectic onset and product phases, confirming melting of pellets at ~1623 K with formation of borides. This year, using an SS-B₄C configuration identical to actual control rods and applying

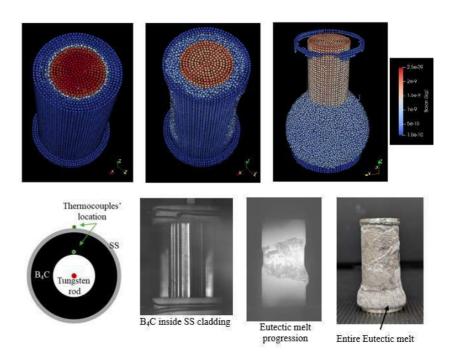


図 1 共晶反応の実験と計算

uniform radiative heating, we reproduced realistic melt relocation and quantified both the final solidification pattern and the boron content in the eutectic. Incorporating XPS and XRD in addition to SEM-EDS, and operating under reduced interfacial thermal resistance, we identified an eutectic onset temperature of ~1510 K for an SFR realistic geometry. Furthermore, boron diffusion and resultant compositions were validated using the MPS method, an in-house 1D MATLAB model, and StarCCM+, demonstrating—both experimentally and numerically—that uniform radiative heating effectively reproduces accident conditions.

2. Investigation of aerosol particle removal, dispersion, and deposition behavior for the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant

In 2011, the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant experienced severe core melting, resulting in the deposition of radioactive fuel debris within the reactor pressure vessel (RPV), primary containment vessel (PCV), and pedestal. Since

then, progressive structural deterioration has increased the risks of collapse and radioactive release, underscoring the critical importance of decommissioning. A key challenge is fuel-debris retrieval, as the cutting process generates fine radioactive aerosol particles (0.1-10 um) that can disperse and pose significant environmental and health risks. Our research aims to minimize the dispersion of such aerosols and to capture them efficiently. Since 2024, we have conducted experiments numerical studies using electrically charged sprays and water mist under

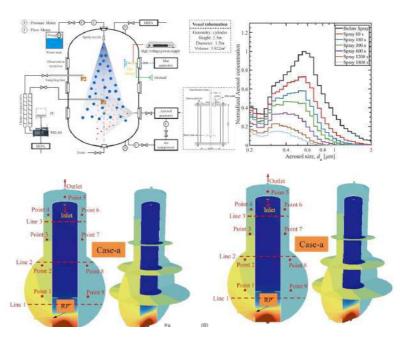


図 2 UTART 実験と数値計算

various configurations. The results (Fig. 2) show that an electrically charged water spray combined with mist can improve capture efficiency by up to ~35% compared with a simple water spray, offering a promising approach for aerosol removal during debris cutting. In parallel, we are investigating aerosol dispersion and deposition under diverse environmental conditions through both experiments and simulations.

<u>成果リスト</u>

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- [2] Xu, R., Sharma, A. K., Kumar, R., Ahmed, Z., Laffolley, H., Yokoyama, R., ... & Suzuki, S. (2025). Enhanced hazardous aerosol mitigation from laser-irradiated surfaces using an optimized electrically charged spray system. *Chemical Engineering Science*, 122192.
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2024F-02

Xバンド加速器の応用研究

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可搬型 950keV/3.95MeV 小型X線源を用いた社会インフラや産業インフラの検査技術として、通常の検査技術では判断が難しい橋梁コンクリートなどの構造物深部における非破壊検査技術の研究開発を継続している。

<u>キーワード</u>: 可搬型 X 線源、950ke V/3.95 Me V、非破壊検査、橋梁、PC コンクリート、グラウト **1. はじめに**

PC 橋(プレストレストコンクリート橋)は内部の鋼材(PC 鋼材)にあらかじめ張力をかけて製造されたコンクリート構造物で、PC 鋼材は金属製のシースの中に入れられ鋼材とシースの隙間にグラウトが充填されている。PC 橋梁には鋼材の腐食あるいはグラウト未充填により劣化が進んでいるものがあるが外観には変化が表れにくいため、その検査技術の開発が求められている。

このような老朽化問題に効果的に対処するため、X線を利用した内部構造の非破壊検査を実施し、取得したデータに基づきインフラデータベースの構築に貢献することを目指している。 今期 X線と物質との相互作用をモンテカルロ法に基づいてシミュレーションを行い、さらに、テスト画像に対する X線源の品質の影響を計算し、これに基づいて画像処理を実行して検出の精度を向上させることを試みた。この方法は異なる設計構造での結像シミュレーション結果も取得できるため実測画像の構造解析に有効である。

2. 研究内容

(1) 3次元情報の取得

通常の透過撮像では透視した物体は 2 次元に射影されるため、物体の裏側部分や奥行方向の情報を見ることはできない。 3 次元情報を得る撮像方法として、X線 CT あるいはトモシンセシスがある。 X線 CT は撮像画像から 3 次元画像を再構成し、その断層画像が生成され、トモシンセシスは任意の高さ (奥行)を強調した断層画像が生成される。橋梁のような対象物に対しては X線源と検出器を大きく回転させることはできないため、十分な撮像角度が確保できない。このように角度が制限される場合はトモシンセシスの方が高画質と言われている。

図 1 に撮像に用いた実験系を示す。試験体は 10cm 厚のコンクリートに 4 本の鋼棒が埋め込まれており(図 2)、試験体を左右に回転させ撮像した。複数枚の画像を撮像したのち ASTRA Toolbox の FDK および BP アルゴリズムを用いて画像の再構成を行った。

回転角を ± 13.1 度と ± 52.5 度とした場合の再構成した断面画像をそれぞれ図 3(a)および 3(b)に示す。13.1 度の場合は回転角が十分

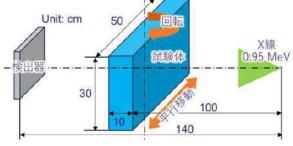


図1. 3次元情報取得の実験系

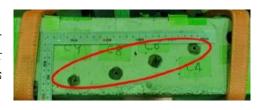
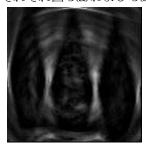


図2. 実験に用いた試験体実験系





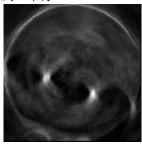




図 3. 回転角±13.1度の場合(a)と回転角±52.5度の場合(b)。 それぞれ左:BP法、右:FDK法

ではなく物体は再現性が乏しくなっている。52.5 度になるとBP法では十分ではないが FDK 法で 4 本の鋼材が 確認できる。これらの結果をもとに橋梁試験体について撮像条件ならびに再構成法の検討を進めていく。

(2)実橋梁試験体の調査

実橋梁での本格的調査に先駆けて NEXCO 総研殿との共同研究に基づいて箱庭における実橋梁試験体の調査を実施した。今回出力 0.95 MeV の X 線源を使用し 40 cm 程度の厚さのコンクリートでグラウトの有無などが確認できるか調査を行った。試験体と X 線源設置の様子を図 4 に示す。検出器は FPD(フラットパネル検出器)を用いた。

撮像画像の一例を図 5 に示す。この調査点ではコンクリートの厚さは 約 36cm で、2 本複数の太い鋼棒と細い数本の鉄筋およびシース内のグラウト充填部が確認できる。鋼棒に沿って輝度が高く見えるところはグラウト未充填部と思われる箇所であり、0.95MeV のエネルギーX 線で40cm 程度の厚さで構造材の状態を識別できそうであることを確認できた。



図 4.0.95MeV の X 線源と橋梁試験体

今回試験体の撮像画像を解析する方法として、畳み込みニューラルネットワーク (CNN) の一種である U-net を用いた機械学習の検討を行った。具体的には X 線照射範囲に当たる画像 (図 5) の黄色枠で囲った

部分について、重要な領域に焦点をあて不要な情報を抑制できる Attention 機構を導入して処理を行った。結果を図 6 に示す。処理された画像はノイズが入っているが、グラウト未充填と思われる部分が明瞭になっている。今後、学習データの構築など検討を進める。

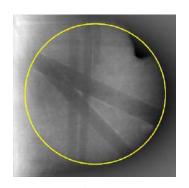


図 5. 試験体撮像画像の一例

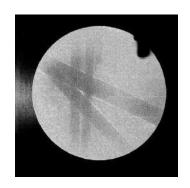


図 6. 機械学習による処理画像

成果リスト

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謝辞

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2024F04

レーザーを用いた核物質分光分析システムの検討

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1東大院工,2原子力機構

レーザー分光に基づく新たな放射性核種分析法の開発を目的として、共鳴イオン化質量分析法、イオントラップ微量分析法、高感度吸収分光法、など、精密レーザー技術を駆使した研究開発を多角的に進めている。2024年度は、原子炉棟ホットエリア内において、過去に得られた実験データに基づいて、天然 Sr 同位体に対して選択的共鳴イオン化スキームの最終段(426.3 mm)におけるシュタルク効果の詳細解析を進めた。外部電場掃引下で取得されたスペクトルに対し、高精度な解析を行うことで、88Sr 励起状態の分極率を定量的に導出し、当該スキームの電場応答特性に関する重要な知見を得た。その後、システムの再構築を進める中で、イオン輸送およびトラップ効率の向上を目的として、八重極イオンガイドシステムを新たに導入し、装置全体の動作検証を通じてその有効性と安定性を確認した。ブランケット棟レーザープラズマビーム源制御室において、地下水水質分析装置を開発することを目指し、ヨウ素を対象とした地下水試料の前処理系に関する検討、レーザー吸収分光装置の構築を行い、ヨウ素の検出に成功した。

キーワード: 微量物質分析、レーザー、共鳴イオン化、 吸収分光、光共振器、放射性ストロンチウム

<u>1. はじめに</u>

福島第1原子力発電所事故を踏まえ、核物質をはじめとするさまざまな核種の微量分析の必要性が高まっている。本研究では、既往手法に対し、レーザーを用いた新たな同位体微量分析開発のための基礎基盤研究を行っている。具体的には、レーザーと物質の相互作用を利用し、核種を選択的に励起可能なレーザー分光に基づく手法に着目し、これまでにない放射性核種分析法の開発を目指すものである。前年度に引き続き 2024 年度は、原子炉棟内のホットエリアにて 90Sr 原子の共鳴イオン化分析法の開発、および 90Sr イオントラップ微量分析法の開発に取り組むとともに、別館及びブランケット棟レーザープラズマビーム源制御室にて、光共振器強化型吸収分光に基づく微量同位体・放射性核種分析法の開発に関して多角的に研究開発を遂行した。

2. 原子炉棟ホットエリアにおける研究開発

(1) Stark 効果の定量的評価

2023 年度に構築された天然 Sr に対する同位体選択的共鳴イオン化スキームおよび Stark 効果の観測結果を基盤として、三段階共鳴イオン化スキームの最終段 (426.3 nm 遷移)における電場の影響をより定量的に評価することを目的として、外部電場の掃引によるスペクトル取得とその解析を行った。得られたスペクトルに対して高精度なフィッティング処理を実施することで、**Sr の励起状態における分極率を導出し、電場強度に応じた遷移周波数のシフトや線幅の変化といった Stark 効果の詳細な挙動を明らかにした。これらの結果は、**9Sr の微量・選択的分析における共鳴イオン化条件の最適化に資する知見となり、その成果は査読付き学術誌にて発表された[1]。図 1 に、外部電場の掃引により得られた**Sr の Stark シフトスペクトルの一例を示す。

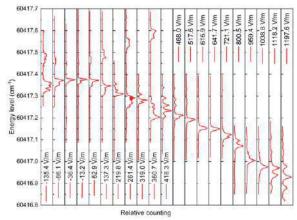


図 1 外部電場掃引により取得された ⁸⁸Sr 励起状態 の Stark シフトスペクトル[1]

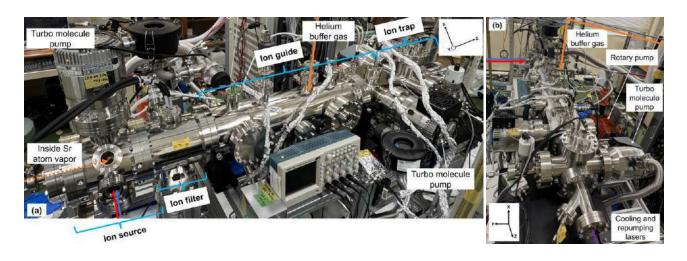


図 2 本研究で新たに構築したイオントラップ・レーザー冷却分光装置の全体構成[2]

(2) 八重極イオンガイド

⁹⁰Sr イオンのトラップ効率と輸送安定性のさらなる向上を目的とし、イオン源ー質量分析部とイオントラップ部の間に新たに八重極イオンガイドシステムを導入した。このシステムは、ガスセル内に導入されるヘリウムとの衝突によって、イオンの運動エネルギーを低下させるとともにビーム整形を行うものであり、イオントラップへの効率的な導入を可能にすることを意図している。図2に、本年度新たに構築したシステム全体の装置構成を示す。

装置完成後、複数の検証実験を実施し、八重極イオンガイドシステムがイオン輸送効率に及ぼす影響、緩衝気体 (ヘリウム) 圧力が ⁸⁸Sr イオンの計数率に与える効果、ならびに RF 電圧の周波数および振幅に対するイオン安定 性の依存性について評価を行った。その結果、導入された八重極イオンガイドシステムは、質量分析器通過後の ⁸⁸Sr イオンの輸送を安定化させ、かつイオントラップ前において良好なビーム集束を実現することが確認された。 本装置は十分な実用性および安定性を有しており、今後の ⁹⁰Sr イオントラップ実験への応用が期待される。また、本研究における装置性能の定量的な評価結果は、査読付き学術誌にて発表された[2]。

3. 研究棟別館実験室およびブランケット棟レーザープラズマビーム源制御室での開発

上述した共鳴イオン化による手法は、高い同位体選択性を有することが期待できる一方で、その実現のためにはロータリーポンプとターボ分子ポンプを組み合わせた超高真空装置が不可欠である。このため、装置全体の大型化・大電力化は否めず、実験室レベルでの運用が想定される。これに対し、より小型で、将来的には可搬な装置の実現が期待できる新たな分析手法として、高反射率光共振器を利用してその感度を飛躍的に向上させた光共振器強化型レーザー吸収分光法、特にキャビティリングダウン分光法(Cavity RingDown Spectroscopy: CRDS)に着目した。キャビティリングダウン分光法では、高反射率光共振器によるレーザー光の多重反射を利用して 1m 以下のガスセル長で実効光路長を数 km 以上まで向上させ、合わせて共振器内蓄積光子の滞在時間を観測することでレーザー強度変動の影響を相対化させた超高感度な吸収分光法である。本手法を原子力分野における様々な核種分析に適用すべく、試料前処理系等と組み合わせた新たな分析装置の開発を多角的に進めている。2024年度は主に(1) 直流グロー放電 CRDS による原子吸収分光法の開発、(2) Sr を含む分子を対象にした CRDS 法の開発、(3) 地層処分に係る微量同位体分析法の開発の3つのテーマについて取り組んだ。

(1) 直流グロー放電 CRDS

直流グロー放電により試料を原子化し、CRDS によりその光吸収を観測する手法(直流グロー放電-キャビティリ

ングダウン分光法)の開発を進めている。ガドリニウム同位体吸収スペクトルについて、飽和吸収を検討することで、同位体シフトの分解を試みた。フィッティングをすることで、ガドリニウム安定同位体比と対応した形のスペクトルを得ることができた。今後、解析をさらに進めるとともに実験パラメータの最適化を検討する。

(2) Sr を含む分子を対象にした CRDS

分子の同位体シフトは原子と比較して数桁大きいため、これを利用して %Sr を含む分子の吸収を CRDS により選択的に行い、分光分析につなげる ことを目指している。広範な波長領域で SrO 分子の(Sr 同位体分解した)吸収スペクトルを取得することに成功し、理論に基づくスペクトル計算と も良好な一致を得ることができた。一方で、同定できない吸収が多数観測され、その原因を探索したが、さらに詳細な検討が必要な状況である。



図 2 CRDS 光源: 波長可変リングレーザー

(3) 地層処分に係る地下水中同位体分析への適用性検討

高レベル放射性廃棄物の地層処分実施に向けた地下水流動解析結果の妥当性確認のため、地下水年代の推定や核種移行解析などに資する地下水水質データの取得が重要な調査項目となっている。これらに係る地下水水質分析は現状、ボーリング孔内部から地下水試料を採取し、地上に持ち出してそれぞれの項目について分析を行うのが一般的である。CRDS に基づく地下水試料中同位体分析が確立できれば、より原位置に近いところでの直接分析が実現できる可能性がある。2024年度は、ヨウ素分子分光用光共振器セルの高温環境下での動作試験を含めたレーザー吸収分光装置、ヨウ素測定条件の構築を行った。また水溶液中ヨウ素イオンを分子に酸化後、抽出し、測定に供するための前処理系の構築を行った。

謝辞 本成果には、科研費若手(23K13686)、科研費学変 B(22H05023)、NUMO 共同研究による成果を含みます。

成果リスト(書籍、学術論文、基調/招待/依頼講演、記事、プレス発表、学位論文など)

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2024F-05 腐食特性を向上させた Zr 基、Fe 基合金の開発の報告

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This study investigates the oxidation behavior of Cr-based binary alloys as accident-tolerant fuel (ATF) cladding material using tests in simulated normal operating conditions and accidental conditions. Cr alloy compositions were selected from phase diagrams, and the alloy ingots were prepared using vacuum arc melting. Performance tests were done in autoclave and high-temperature furnace. The weight gain per surface area were analyzed for the alloys for kinetic analysis. Characterization of the oxide scale was performed on the surface and cross-sections using SEM-EDS. Oxide phases and residual stresses were analyzed using XRD.

Key words: Accident-Tolerant Fuel (ATF), Cr-based Alloys, Oxidation behavior, Kinetics Analysis

1. Introduction

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident happened because of station blackout due to the tsunami flooding of the electrical system and emergency coolant pumps, which led to the stoppage of coolant flow for residual decay heat removal. This led to hydrogen explosions and releases of radioactive material to the environment. Hydrogen generation is caused by the oxidation reaction of the zirconium cladding material with high-temperature steam. To enhance material resistance in such scenarios, accident-tolerant fuel (ATF) cladding materials are being researched. The nearest-term ATF cladding concept is the application of pure Cr coatings to enhance the tolerance of claddings against steam oxidation up to 1100 °C. However, pure Cr shows relatively poor mechanical, high ductile-to-brittle transition temperatures, and difficulties in room-temperature machining. Pure Cr also exhibits high nitrogen solubility at high temperatures. Cr alloying may have the potential to address these concerns.

2. Experimental procedure

The alloys were prepared via vacuum arc melting followed by heat treatment. Plate specimens were cut and polished. Weight gains were measured for samples subjected to autoclave corrosion and high-temperature steam oxidation. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) is used to investigate oxidation behavior in high-temperature air. Characterization of microstructure after oxidation tests is performed using optical microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, energy-dispersive x-ray spectroscopy, and transmission electron microscopy. Identification of oxides and measurement of residual stress were performed using x-ray diffractometry. The main purpose of this study is to provide a comprehensive analysis of oxidation behavior of Cr alloys at high temperatures.

3. Results and discussions

Autoclave corrosion behavior was performed to simulate normal operating conditions. By evaluating the corrosion kinetics of Cr alloys at 360 °C and 17.8 MPa, and compared to Zr alloys, it is evident that Cr-based binary alloys exhibit significantly lower weight gains, indicating good corrosion resistance compared to Zr. Among the tested alloys, Cr-0.5Sn and Cr-2Al displayed corrosion rates similar to that of pure Cr, while Cr-2Fe and Cr-7Fe showed slightly higher weight gains, with comparable behavior to each other. The oxide scales formed were generally submicron in thickness. However, the Cr-3Sn and Cr-9.5Al alloys exhibited deviation from the oxidation law.

The oxidation behavior of pure Cr, Cr-7Fe, and Cr-2Al alloys in high-temperature air was investigated within the range of 1173-1473 K. Thermogravimetric analyses, along with the calculated parabolic rate constants and activation energies, indicate that both Cr-7Fe and Cr-2Al (in Fig. 1) possess promising oxidation resistance and may serve as effective coatings for Zr-based claddings. XRD texture analysis also revealed preferential growth of Cr2O3 grain oriented along the (300) and (110) planes at longer oxidation times. Cross-sectional analyses at 1373 K confirmed the development of thin oxide scales, with thicknesses of less than 6 μm.

High-temperature steam oxidation of Cr, Cr-7Fe, and Cr-2Al alloys was performed at 1373 K, focusing on oxidation weight gain, phase characterization texture analysis, and oxide scale microstructural evolution. Cr-2Al demonstrated the best oxidation resistance, showing the lowest weight gains and thinnest oxide scales up to 2 hours of steam oxidation. This superior performance is attributed to the formation of a stable Al₂O₃ layer between the outer Cr₂O₃ scale and the underlying alloy substrate. Cr-7Fe exhibited better oxidized surface than pure Cr, which showed oxide blisters and cracking. The presence of Fe in the outermost regions of the oxide scale may have contributed to stress relief to prevent blistering and reducing possible volatilization of Cr species.

Residual stress analysis was performed for the oxide scales developed during high-temperature oxidation of Cr, Cr-7Fe, and Cr-2Al alloys using the $\sin^2 \psi$ method via x-ray diffraction. Residual stress evolution was found to vary with the grain orientation and can be related to the evolution of oxide texture. Results indicate that residual compressive stresses are generally higher in pure Cr oxidized in steam, supported by the oxide blistering and buckling as stress relief mechanisms of the Cr_2O_3 scale. The overall residual stress state arises from a combination of thermal stress, oxide growth stress, and stress relaxation mechanisms.

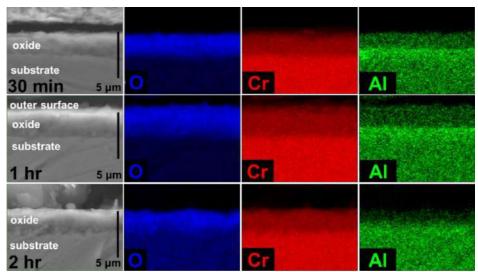


Fig. 1. SEM-EDS of Cr-2Al oxidized at 1100°C air.

2024F06

非晶質バリア材料の廃棄体特性評価

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本研究では、メタカオリン系ジオポリマー (MKGP) の初期硬化過程におけるナノ細孔分布の発展を、小角中性子 散乱 (SANS) 測定と多分散球 (PDSP) モデルにより解析した。その結果、細孔分布は約2.4 nm と約10 nm をモ ードとする二峰性を示した。アルカリ刺激剤の種類に依存して発展挙動が異なることを明らかにした。

キーワード: メタカオリン系ジオポリマー、細孔発達、多分散球モデル、ナノポア、放射性廃棄物処分

<u>1. 本文</u>

はじめに

アルカリ活性化材料およびジオポリマーは、アルミノケイ酸塩系前駆体をアルカリ溶液で活性化して得られる無機バインダーであり、放射性廃棄物処分分野での適用が期待されている。その中でもメタカオリンは代表的な前駆体であり、メタカオリン系ジオポリマー (MKGP) は 2-100 nm の細孔径を有する多孔質構造を示す[1]。この細孔構造は、マトリックス中でのイオン拡散特性に大きく影響する。

凍結融解を利用したクライオポロメトリーの報告によれば、MKGP の主なナノ細孔は直径 2.4-2.5 nm (ゼオライト類似構造に対応) および 9.8-9.9 nm (ゲル間隙に対応) に存在することが示されている[2]。また、Na、K、Cs など異なるアルカリ刺激剤を用いることで、ナノスケールの細孔径が変化することが報告されている[3]。したがって、MKGP の組成最適化により、放射性核種の拡散係数低減が可能となる。本研究では、硬化初期における MKGP の細孔発達をその場観察するため、小角中性子散乱 (SANS) 測定と多分散球 (PDSP) モデルを組み合わせた解析を行った。さらに、得られた散乱曲線をデコンボリューション処理することで、細孔分布の進展挙動を定量化した。対象とした試料は Na 型および K 型アルカリ活性剤、さらに両者を 1:1 比で混合した系である。

結果と考察

PDSP モデルに基づきフィッティングした結果、MKGP の細孔分布は二峰性を示し、それぞれ 2.4 nm および約 10 nm をモードとする対数正規分布で表すことができた。デコンボリューション解析により、両細孔モードに対応する体積分率を分離定量することが可能となった。さらに、Na 系、K 系、Na-K 混合系いずれの場合も、2.4 nm 細孔と 10 nm 細孔の発達速度が異なることが明らかとなった。一方で、X 線回折(XRD)分析では、三者間に顕著な相違は認められなかった。

まとめ

以上の結果から、PDSP モデルを用いた解析と細孔分布のデコンボリューションは、MKGP のナノ細孔発達挙動を定量的に評価する有効な手法であることが示された。本手法により、放射性核種の拡散抑制を目的としたマトリックス最適化設計に資する知見を得られることが期待される。

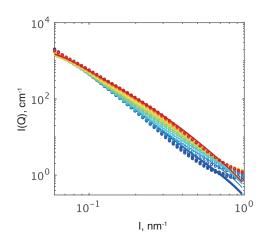


図 1 – Na 活性化 MKGP の中性子散乱 曲線の経時変化(プロット)と PDSP モデルによるフィッティング結果(実 線)。青から赤にかけて、0~24 時間 の経過を示す。

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2024H-01

先進原子炉構造材の照射効果の報告

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Zirconium alloys serve as fundamental nuclear fuel cladding materials but exhibit catastrophic oxidation during loss-of-coolant accidents, as evidenced in the Fukushima disaster. Chromium coatings have emerged as promising accident-tolerant solutions due to superior high-temperature oxidation resistance. However, interdiffusion at Cr-Zr interfaces generates brittle ZrCr2 intermetallic layers whose irradiation stability remains poorly characterized. While existing literature extensively documents irradiation effects on nanoscale ZrCr2 precipitates in Zircaloys, the behavior of continuous diffusion-bonded ZrCr2 layers—critical for coating integrity—remains unexplored. This study bridges this knowledge gap by quantifying dose-dependent microstructural evolution and mechanical degradation mechanisms at the Cr-Zr interface under reactor-relevant conditions.

Key words: Cr-coated Zr alloys, ZrCr2, Irradiation, Microstructural evolution, Hardness behavior

1. Introduction

Cr-coated Zr alloys are promising accident-tolerant fuel (ATF) materials for nuclear reactors due to their enhanced corrosion resistance and compatibility with existing reactor designs. The interfacial intermetallic compound ZrCr₂, formed by Cr-Zr interdiffusion, plays a crucial role in the mechanical stability of the coating system. However, its microstructural and mechanical responses to irradiation, especially hardness evolution, remain inadequately studied. This work investigates the microstructural transformations and hardness behavior of Cr, Zr, and ZrCr₂ under irradiation to elucidate their stability in extreme environments.

2. Experimental procedure

Diffusion-bonded Cr/Zry-4 couples were prepared by vacuum annealing (1050°C/48 h/<10⁻⁴ Pa), with interfacial ZrCr₂ formation confirmed through SEM-EDS and TEM-SAED analyses. Cross-sectional specimens underwent Fe²⁺ ion irradiation (2.8 MeV) at 300°C to 0.1, 1, and 5 dpa, with damage profiles calculated via SRIM simulations. Microstructural evolution was characterized using bright-field TEM imaging and selected-area electron diffraction, while nanoindentation (150 nm depth) mapped hardness changes across phases. Statistical validity was ensured through >30 indents per phase, with positions verified by post-indentation SEM-EDS to exclude boundary effects.

3. Results and discussions

At 0.1 dpa, dense dislocation loops dominated the ZrCr₂ peak-damage zone (0.07–0.1 dpa), increasing lattice resistance to deformation. By 1 dpa, partial amorphization occurred in high-dose regions (0.7–1 dpa), flanked by crystalline-amorphous transition zones (0.2–0.7 dpa). Complete amorphous transformation was observed at 5 dpa, with transition regions narrowing due to steeper damage gradients. The critical amorphization dose (0.7 dpa at 300°C) aligns with displacement cascade theory, where defect accumulation overwhelms lattice recovery mechanisms.

The intermetallic ZrCr₂ exhibited three-stage mechanical response: initial hardening (+0.2 GPa) at 0.1 dpa due to dislocation loop barriers; stabilization at 1 dpa from crystalline-amorphous phase coexistence; and significant softening (-0.7 GPa) at 5 dpa as amorphous domains enabled localized shear transformations. In contrast, Cr and Zr substrates showed monotonic

irradiation hardening (Cr: +50%, Zr: +24% at 5 dpa), saturating by 1 dpa. Crucially, irradiation reduced the initial hardness disparity between phases—ZrCr₂ (11.9 GPa) versus Zr (3.7 GPa) and Cr (2.8 GPa)—mitigating interfacial stress concentrations by >40%. This mechanical homogenization suggests improved structural compatibility in coated cladding under irradiation..

4. Summary

- 1. Irradiation induces progressive amorphization of interfacial ZrCr₂ (critical dose: 0.7 dpa at 300°C), accompanied by transition from hardening to softening.
- Mechanical homogenization across Cr-Zr interfaces reduces local stress concentrations by >40%, enhancing structural compatibility.
- 3. Potential risks of volumetric expansion in amorphous ZrCr₂ warrant investigation into high-temperature recrystallization behavior.

These results establish a foundation for designing radiation-resistant Cr-coated nuclear cladding, with significant implications for accident-tolerant fuel performance.

Achievement

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2024H-03

核融合炉材料の照射効果の報告

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This study investigates the impact of radiation damage gradients on nano-oxide stability in 12Cr-ODS steels for nuclear fusion applications. Specimens were irradiated with 2.8 MeV Fe²⁺ ions at 673 K (2 dpa), simulating non-uniform displacement damage. Using cross-sectional FIB-TEM and stereomicroscopy with 6.3° tilting for 3D reconstruction, nano-oxide dissolution and Frank loop distributions were quantified across depths (450–1500 nm). Results reveal significant nano-oxide volumetric fraction reduction in high-dose gradient regions, driven by enhanced matrix diffusion from interstitial/vacancy imbalances. The integrated WBDF and 3D analysis provides critical insights into irradiation-induced degradation mechanisms, guiding ODS steel design for improved radiation resistance.

Key words: ODS steels, Radiation damage gradient, Nano-oxide stability, Self-ion irradiation

1. Introduction

Oxide Dispersion Strengthened (ODS) steels are increasingly considered for critical applications in nuclear fusion reactors, such as first wall and blanket materials. This research aims to clarify the impact of dose gradient on the stability of nano-oxide particles in these materials, using self-ion (Fe²⁺) irradiation. Ion irradiation causes a non-uniform radiation damage distribution, with a depth-dependent variation in displacements per atom (dpa).

2. Experimental procedure

This study examines the depth-dependent dpa variation in specimens irradiated with heavy ions to determine its effect on nano-oxide behavior. Multiple disc specimens of 12Cr-ODS steel were irradiated at 400°C, targeting depths from 450 nm to 1500 nm. The goal is to correlate dose gradient with defect production and nano-oxide stability, using cross-sectional analysis via Focused Ion Beam (FIB) techniques, as shown in Figure 1.

Direct tracing of interstitials is challenging, but at the irradiation temperature, Frank loops—primarily interstitial in nature—serve as indicators of interstitial point defect distribution. The 12Cr-ODS steel was cold-rolled to a 90% thickness reduction, annealed at 1373 K for 3 hours in a vacuum to ensure complete recrystallization, and then irradiated with 2.8 MeV Fe²⁺ ions at 673 K to a dose of 2 dpa. Microstructural observations were conducted using a Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) (JEM-2100, 200 kV). Cross-sectional TEM foils were prepared using FIB, followed by flash polishing and gentle milling with a Nanomill model 1040 at NIMS. Stereomicroscopy for 3D reconstruction of dislocation loops and nano-oxide distribution was complemented by the weak-beam dark-field (WBDF) technique for thickness measurement.

3. Results and discussions

In the irradiated specimens, a high density of dislocation loops averaging 10 nm in size was observed at the peak damage region. Nano-oxide 3D reconstruction via stereomicroscopy with a 6.3-degree tilting angle provided distinguishable parallax between stereo pairs. The specimen surface was determined by polynomial fitting, and thickness measurements from stereomicroscopy closely matched thickness fringes, ensuring accurate volumetric density calculations of nanoparticles.

The dissolution of nanoparticles under irradiation, used as an indicator of enhanced matrix diffusion, showed a significant volumetric fraction drop in high-dose gradient regions, which will be explained by the distribution of interstitials and vacancies.

These methods and techniques aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of how nano-oxides contribute to irradiation resistance, ultimately aiding in the development of ODS steels with improved stability and performance under radiation.

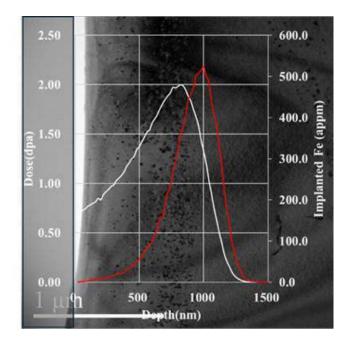


Figure 1 TEM image of irradiated 12Cr-ODS steels sample. The damage and implanted ion profiles were obtained by SRIM code.

2024 H 04

大強度陽子加速器標的環境に耐えうる新材料の照射損傷の基礎研究

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加速器ビーム窓に用いられるチタン合金の β (BCC) 相では、 ω 相前駆体に起因する格子歪みが「異常な点欠陥 再結合」を誘起し、照射損傷を抑制する可能性を示した。この特性を活かし、 β チタン合金の加工熱処理による 機械特性と耐照射性の最適化を検討、開発中の低放射化複相 Fe 系多元合金においても良好な耐照射性を確認した。

キーワード: 加速器標的、ビーム窓、チタン合金、ハイエントロピー合金、異常な点欠陥の再結合

1. はじめに

次世代加速器研究では、大強度粒子ビームの直撃を受ける標的やビーム窓の耐照射性の向上が不可欠である。 我々はこれまでに、T2K ニュートリノ振動実験のビーム窓に用いられている Ti-6Al-4V の照射応答が相構造により 大きく異なり、 α (HCP) 相では転位ループが生成するのに対し、 β (BCC) 相では損傷が抑制されることを明ら かにした[1]。これは β 相内に一様均一に分布する α 相前駆体に対応するナノスケール格子歪みに起因した、「異常 な点欠陥再結合(Anomalous Point Defect Recombination, APDR)」によると考えられる。この知見を基に、次世代の 大強度加速器ビーム窓用材料として、 β チタン合金 Ti-15-3(Ti-15V-3Cr-3Sn-3Al)の 2 段階時効処理による耐熱・ 耐照射性向上を試みている[3][4]。また、独自に開発中の低放射化 BCC 系高エントロピー/中エントロピー合金で も自己修復的な耐照射性が期待されており、今回 Te-20Mn-15Cr-5.0Al-1.5V-1.0C の照射特性を評価した[2][5]。

2. 方法

Ti-15-3 薄板材に溶体化処理(790 $\mathbb{C} \times 15$ 分)を施し、初段 300 $\mathbb{C} \times 8$ 時間の後、①540 \mathbb{C} 、②480 \mathbb{C} 、③600 \mathbb{C} ×24 時間での 2 段階時効処理を施した 3 材種と、④65%冷間圧延(CW)材に溶体化と 540 \mathbb{C} 時効を組み合わせた 1

材種を作製した。これらの試料にHITにて $2.5\,\text{MeV}$ Fe²+イオンを 300° C、ピーク値で $7.4\,$ dpa まで照射した。さらに、マイクロ引張試験により延性への影響を検証するため、各種チタン合金(Ti-64焼鈍、Ti-15-3未時効・標準時効・ $2\,$ 段階時効)に室温で $7.0\,$ dpa の Fe²+照射を行った。

また、Fe-20Mn-15Cr-5.0A1-1.5V-1.0Cを溶製し、300℃にて 1,3,6 dpa の Fe²+照射を行った。

3. 結果と考察

Ti-15-3 では、従来より低温の②480℃で2段階目の時効を施した試料に微細な α 相析出が得られた。従来条件①540℃では析出はやや粗大化し、その硬化量は 0.9 GPa に達した(7.4 dpa 照射後、ナノ硬度 $4.4\rightarrow 5.3$ GPa)。これは従来得られてい

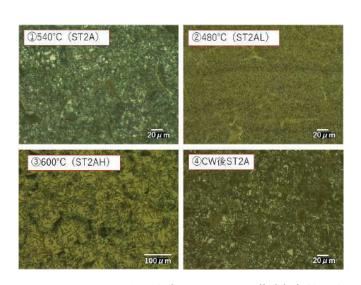


図 1. Ti-15-3 β チタン合金における 2 段階時効条件の違いによる α 相析出の変化。従来条件①では期待した微細な α 相析出は得られず、顕著な照射硬化を示した。②480°C 条件では、従来通りの微細な α 析出が得られた。

た硬化量 (0.2 GPa, 10 dpa) と異なり、 α 相の微細析出が 2 段階時効材の照射硬化の抑制に本質的であることを示している。④冷間圧延は母相粒径を微細化したが、 α 析出の細粒化には効果が得られなかった(図 1)。

Fe 基合金は予想通り BCC (約7割) +FCC (約3割) で BCC を主体とする2相組織を示し、室温での引張強度640 MPa・全伸び45%と良好な特性を有した。300℃、6 dpa 照射後の硬化量は1.2 GPa であった (図2)。

4. まとめと今後の予定

Ti-15-3の微細析出には、2段階時効の温度条件だけでなく、 初期材質などの条件も大きく影響することが明らかとなった。 今後は、溶体化条件や初期材質を含めた最適化を進める。

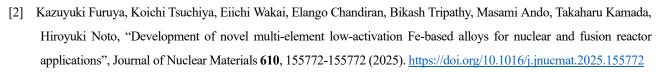
新たに溶製した Fe-Mn-Cr-A1-V-C は既に優れた強度と耐照射性を示しており、相割合や熱処理条件の調整によるさらなる改良を行う。

今後は、これらの改良材料および並行して研究中の各種の加速器標的環境材料(W-TiC、SUS316 LN、アルミ合金)に対し、HIT で鉄・He イオンの二重照射を実施し、ナノ硬度測定や QST での μ 引張試験などを通じて、複合損傷環境下での照射挙動を評価する予定である。

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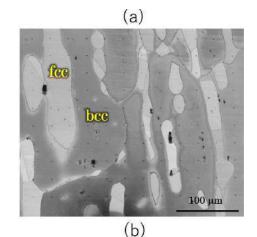
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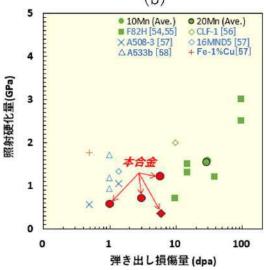


図 2. Fe-20Mn-15Cr-5. 0AI-1. 5V-1. 0C 合金の (a) 初期組織 (BCC 主体+FCC の 2 相) および (b) 300°Cでのイオン照射による硬化挙動 (1-6 dpa)。従来の核融合構造材料の F/M 鋼および核 分裂炉の圧力容器鋼等と同等以上の耐照射硬 化性を有していた。

2024 H-08

Irradiation effects of Zr-based and Fe-based accident tolerant fuel claddings

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The microstructural stability of Chromium-coated zirconium alloy under thermal aging was investigated, and the growth kinetic model was obtained for the growth of intermetallic compounds layer and Cr-coating. The interfacial layer was irradiated as well, and its stability behavior will be studied and reported.

 $\pm -7 - F$: ATF; interface; microstructural stability; intermetallic compounds

<u>1. 本文</u>

Cr-coated Zr-based alloy has been proposed as the near-term accident tolerant fuel technique worldwide. During the long-term operation of a NPP, the atomic interdiffusion between Cr-coating and Zr-substrate will be readily occur, resulting in the possible microstructural and chemical instability. Clarifying the growth kinetics of the Cr-Zr interlayer is helpful for the life management of ATF cladding, it is therefore essential to understand the dynamic growth process of the Cr-Zr interface under thermal aging and irradiation conditions.

The Cr-coating onto Zry was prepared by multi-arc ion plating method, and the interface microstructural evolution and chemical change, as well as the grain growth behavior of Cr coating are studied after vacuum heat treatment. The results show that Cr/Zr interdiffusion generates a C14-type Zr(Fe, Cr)₂ intermetallic compound layer, with the content of the Fe element in the interlayer increasing with the increase of temperature and holding time. The growth kinetics of the Zr(Fe, Cr)₂ phase follows the parabolic law, and the growth reaction index indicates that the growth process is controlled by volume diffusion. The activation energy of Cr diffusion in the Zr(Fe, Cr)₂ phase is estimated as 88.1 kJ/mol, which is less than the previous study achieved from couple diffusion study. This weakening effect is believed to be related to the formation of a ZrCr₂ nanocrystalline stripe layer. This layer is the thermodynamically stable, and could be easily formed at the initial stage of thermal aging, because this region is highly atomic mixed during multi-arc ion plating process. As an intermetallic compound, this nanocrystalline stripe layer has a high melting point, and is capable for acting as diffusion barrier between Cr and Zr. The grain growth in Cr-coating is further evaluated after measuring the short axis of the columnar crystals in the Cr coating. Grain growth and coalescent could be observed after thermal aging, which is accelerated by a higher annealing temperature and a longer holding time. The activation energy of Cr-coated grain growth is 93.4 kJ/mol based on the grain growth kinetic model, which provides an effective route for predicting the grain size change of Cr columnar grain during the long term normal operation.

Nano-indentation tests were conducted to evaluate the cross-sectional surface hardness at the Cr-Zr interface. Hardness distribution confirms the internal diffusion of Cr in the Zr substrate, which is consistent with the results of different contrasts in the cross section. The hardness results also indicate that Cr diffusion increases the hardness of the Zr substrate close to the interface layer, with the generation of hard and brittle intermetallic compounds exposing a higher risk of brittle fracture at the Cr/Zry-4 interface.

The specimens with different Cr-Zr interfacial status have been irradiated at HIT facility this fiscal year, to investigate the instability of Cr-Zr interface under aging-irradiation synergetic environments. The radiation-induced amorphization at the interface, and the effect of phase boundary on the amorphization process will be studied and revealed in the future. Both insights will provide the necessary knowledge for a better life management of advanced nuclear fuel systems with the implementation of ATF claddings.

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金属クロム合金およびモリブデン合金の放射線損傷

2024H09

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The irradiation damage effect in nuclear materials is always key issue for their applications. The present project studied the

irradiation damage effect of temperature and dose.

<u>+-ワ-ド</u>: Chromium, Irradiation-induced defects, Irradiation-induced swelling, Microstructure, Nuclear materials

1. Introduction

Chromium (Cr), located in period 3 and group VI of the periodic table, possesses a body-centered cubic (bcc) structure

and has gathered increasing attention for its applications in the nuclear field in recent decades [1-4]. The application of

Cr-coating has been considered as a promising method to enhance the corrosion resistance of zirconium for the

application of accident tolerance fuel claddings in light water reactors. Through forming a dense oxide film, the

corrosion resistance of the cladding can be improved under both normal operating conditions and during the loss of

coolant accidents [1,2,5]. Additionally, Cr exhibits high melting temperature, a thermal expansion coefficient similar to

that of zircaloy, excellent irradiation resistance and low activation property [6]. Cr-based alloys are also considered as a

potential risk mitigation option to substitute tungsten for the plasma facing components in fusion reactors [7,8]. In

addition, the Cr coating was recently proposed to enhance the corrosion resistance of a ferritic martensitic steel, F82H,

piping in the coolant system of fusion reactors [9,10].

The irradiation-induced swelling in Cr is one of the most critical issues for its application as nuclear materials. On one

hand, it can impact the dimensional stability of Cr-coatings on zircalloys. Changes in dimensions of Cr may lead to

localized stress, resulting in weak adhesion strength or even detachment from the fuel claddings. On the other hand, it

can contribute to stress corrosion cracking at the interface between Cr and zircalloy. For instance, a mere 0.2%

differential void swelling on the substrate-coating between Cr and SiC can lead to significant irradiation-induced stress

corrosion cracking at their interface in light water reactors [11]. In the Cr coated zircalloy, the irradiation-induced

dimensional unevenness is more serious, as the irradiation growth of zircalloy is anisotropic [12].

The irradiation-induced void swelling of Cr has been systematically studied by Shao through ion irradiation [13,14]. The

results indicate that in Cr the peak swelling temperature is 550 °C. The swelling rate of Cr is around 0.03-0.04 % dpa⁻¹

(displacement per atom) after ion irradiation to 6 - 150 dpa, while in the initial transition period the swelling rate is higher. Cui further quantified the void swelling to be 0.3 % dpa⁻¹ after irradiation to 3 dpa at the same temperature [15]. Additionally, Doyle reported a swelling rate of 0.4 % dpa⁻¹ after irradiation to 0.5 dpa at 320-340°C in a pressurized water reactor (PWR) [11]. It is worth noting that the variation trend of swelling with irradiation dose in Cr differs from that of engineering alloys, such as Fe-Cr based alloys [16], austenitic steels [17] and especially Zr alloys [17]. These alloys exhibit an incubation period for swelling and a post-transient steady state swelling rate. However, in Cr at the initio stage the swelling rate is much higher than the steady state swelling rate. Since the swelling behavior between Cr coating layer and Zr alloy substrate is important to the safety of the fuel claddings, therefore, it is crucial to investigate the behavior and underlying mechanisms of irradiation-induced swelling in Cr.

Irradiation generates Frenkel pairs (interstitial and vacancy point defects) and cascades (point defect clusters), which subsequently lead to the recombination of most vacancies and interstitials in equal numbers in the matrix, annihilation at sinks, and the formation of interstitial dislocation loops, vacancy dislocation loops and voids [18,19]. A comprehensive understanding of the evolution of defect structures is essential in uncovering the underlying mechanism of void swelling in Cr.

In our previous work, both interstitial and vacancy type dislocation loops were observed in ion irradiated Cr to 3 dpa at 550 °C [15]. To reveal the formation and evolution process of dislocation loops in pure Cr, it is necessary to investigate the dislocation loops at the initial stage and high irradiation dose, as well. Therefore, 0.1 dpa and 15 dpa ion irradiation at the same temperature of 550 °C were performed in pure Cr in this study. Attention was paid to the ion beam orientation relative to the crystal orientation. It appears that the mechanism of the swelling behavior in Cr can be understood solely from the perspective of the formation and evolution of dislocation loops and their nature.

2. Experimental method

Plates of Cr with a purity of 99.95 wt% were provided by company the Nilaco corporation. To eliminate any existing defects, the plates underwent an initial annealing process at 800 °C for 2 hours, followed by furnace cooling. The irradiation experiments were conducted at the High Fluence irradiation Facility (HIT) of the University of Tokyo [20]. Samples were irradiated with a 2.8 MeV Fe²⁺ ion beam at a temperature of 550±2 °C. The radiation dose and implanted

Fe ions were calculated using the Quick Calculation of Damage option in the SRIM (Stopping and Range of Ions in Matter) software [21] with displacement energy of 40 eV. The irradiation dose was calculated according to the equation (1).

$$dpa = \frac{Fluence\left(\frac{ions}{cm^2}\right) \times No. \, of \, \frac{Vacancies}{\mathring{A} - ions} \times 10^8}{Atomic \, density \, \left(\frac{atoms}{cm^3}\right)} \tag{1}$$

The irradiation-induced damage exhibited a penetration depth limited to 1.3 µm, with the peak dose occurring at a depth of 800 nm. The irradiation dose referred to as the peak dose is 0.1 dpa, and 15 dpa. The peak concentration of the implanted Fe in the 0.1 dpa, 3 dpa, and 15 dpa sample are 30 appm, 870 appm, and 4400 appm, respectively. Cross-section samples were prepared by a focus ion beam (FIB) technique with a Hitachi FB-2100 instrument, followed by electrolytic polishing [22] to remove any damage induced by FIB using an acetic acid liquid with 5% perchloric acid at room temperature with a voltage of 50 V. In the present study, the irradiation-induced damage and the FIB-induced damage are easy to distinguish, as the irradiation-induced damage is not uniform and sometimes dislocation lines formed, while the FIB-induced defect damage is dense and uniform without dislocation lines. The microstructures were examined using transmission electron microscopy (TEM) with a JEOL 2100 operated at 200 kV and using diffraction contrast. The Burgers vector and nature of the dislocation loops were characterized using the invisibility criterion [23,24] and the improved inside-outside method [15], respectively. Examining the nature of dislocation loops normally needs them to be in a safe zone where the direction towards the electron beam can represent the habit plane n. This is because when a dislocation loop flips over, it exhibits the opposite habit plane and Burgers vector. Based on this phenomenon, on the one hand, the habit plane can be determined at the position before and after flip over, where the loop shows the opposite habit plane and Burgers vector. On the other hand, after determining the habit plane, the nature of dislocation loops can be examined at any tilt position. The 'improved' inside-outside method represents using the inside-outside method without considering the matter of whether the dislocation loops are in the safe zone or not.

The in situ irradiation was carried out on a 0.1 dpa post-irradiated TEM foil sample by the 2.8 MeV Fe^{2+} at 300±5 °C. The experiment was performed within a JEOL JEM-2000FX TEM located at HIT operated at 200 kV, with the ion impinging on the sample at an angle of 60°. The thickness of the sample was estimated to be 120 nm by thickness fringes. The irradiation dose rate in the middle of the sample is 1.3×10^{-4} dpa s⁻¹.

3. Results

3.1 General microstructures

Fig. 1 presents the distribution of dislocation loops and defect clusters in the three irradiated Cr specimens along the irradiation profile, starting from the surface. In addition to the presence of defects within the irradiated region as defined by SRIM simulated implantation and damage profile, it appears that irradiation-induced defects can also be present beyond this region. This phenomenon indicates that under the present irradiation conditions, defects in Cr exhibit exceptionally high mobility and have the propensity to migrate towards both the deep unirradiated region and the specimen surface. The occurrence of defects in the unirradiated region is attributed to defect diffusion. Considering the primary effect of defect formation, the region below 1 μ m is classified as the defect formation region, while the region above 1 μ m is designated as the defect diffusion region.

In the defect formation region of the 0.1 dpa specimen, distinct defect distributions were observed between grains exhibiting different crystal orientations. Among the 17 TEM samples taken in grains with different crystal orientations, dislocation loops appear to cluster but exclusively in grains with {110} and {112} orientations, as shown in Fig. 1 (a-c). One type of such clustered dislocation loops group, referred to as a "raft," consists of assembled dislocation loops with identical Burgers vector and nature [25], as illustrated in Fig. 1 (e). Another type of loop cluster is nested loops of one large dislocation loop, with a typical size from dozens to hundreds nm, containing multiple smaller loops, with a typical size less than 20 nm, laying in its habit plane and with a nature opposite to the host large dislocation loop. The nested loops include dislocation troughs and islands. A dislocation "trough" is referred to a large vacancy loop with small interstitial loops inside, representing a vacancy defect structure. Conversely, a dislocation "island" refers to an interstitial defect structure where the outer large loop is of interstitial type and the smaller inner loops are of vacancy type. In randomly oriented crystals, a typical defect distribution, as shown in Fig. 1 (c), consists of isolated small defect clusters or small dislocation loops with a maximum size of roughly 10 nm.

In the defect diffusion region of the 0.1 dpa specimen, the distribution of defects is likewise influenced by the crystal orientation, as well. In grains with {110} and {112} orientations, the dislocation loops tend to be larger compared to those observed in randomly oriented grains. In the latter, within the defect diffusion region, both the size and number

density of dislocation loops are larger and higher compared to the defect formation region.

In the defect formation region of the 3 dpa specimen, both interstitial rafts and vacancy rafts can still be observed, whereas isolated dislocation toughs and islands are difficult to distinguish [15]. Instead, a high density of dislocation lines was formed, as shown in Fig. 1 (g) [15]. In the defect formation region of the 15 dpa specimen, only relatively small dislocation loops and dislocation lines can be observed, as shown in Fig. 1 (h). At a depth of 500 to 1000 nm, the density of the dislocation lines increases from $\sim 8 \times 10^{13} \text{m}^{-2}$ at 3 dpa to $\sim 2 \times 10^{16} \text{m}^{-2}$ at 15 dpa. At the same time, the density of dislocation loops, including small defect clusters, increases from $\sim 5.3 \times 10^{21} \,\mathrm{m}^{-3}$ [15] to $\sim 6.3 \times 10^{23} \,\mathrm{m}^{-3}$, with the average size increasing from 2.7±0.3 nm to 7.4±0.4 nm, respectively. Furthermore, in the 3 dpa and 15 dpa samples, low-density defect regions were formed in the defect diffusion region. The width of the low-density defect regions increased with irradiation dose, as shown in Fig. 1 (g-h). A similar phenomenon was observed in 4.3 dpa ion-irradiated pure W [26]. Apparently, the formation of low-density defect region is related to the irradiation dose. Only when the irradiation dose is high enough, it can be formed. The low density of small defects in this region suggested that after this region is formed, the diffusion of interstitials or small interstitial defects from the defect formation region is limited. A hypothesis is that when the irradiation dose is high enough a high density of defects formed in the defect formation region, consequently they retained the diffusion of defects to the defect diffusion region. The continue irradiation at high temperature allows the continue coalescence of dislocation loops in the defect diffusion region and therefore low-density defect region formed.

In the defect diffusion region, consistent observation across all irradiated specimens is that the size of dislocation loops decreases with depth while their number density increases.

Voids can be observed in the irradiated region with a depth below 1.3 µm in all samples with irradiation doses even down to 0.1 dpa, as shown in Fig. 1 (d). For the void swelling rate in ion irradiated pure Cr, we refer to the values found in the literature because it was extensively studied [13,15,27,28].

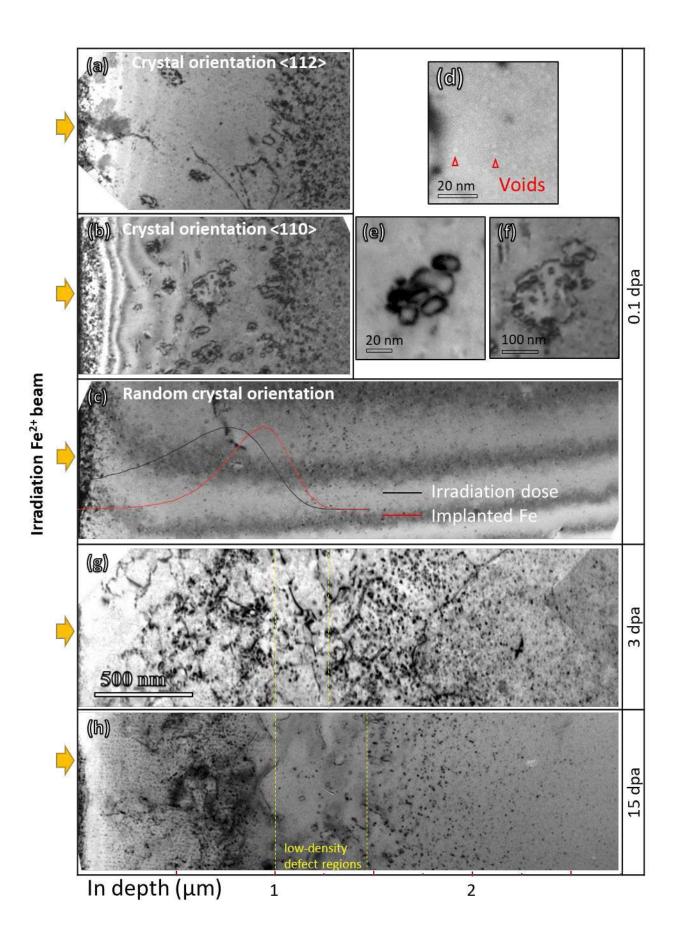


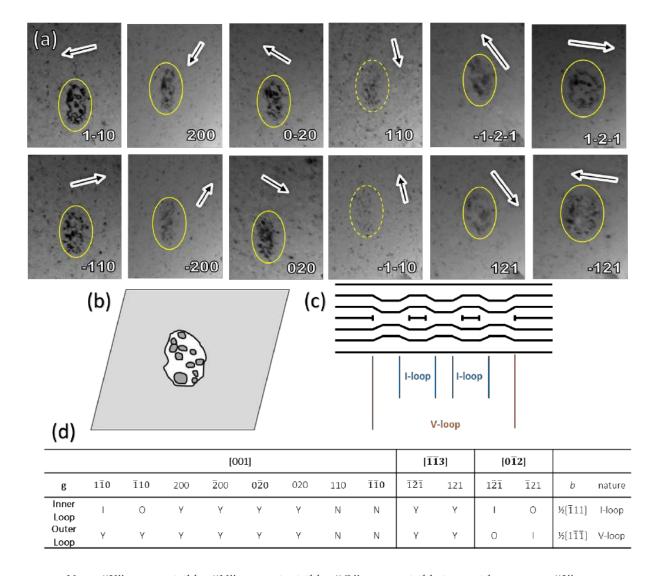
Fig. 1 TEM bright-field images with g=110 presenting the irradiation-induced defects in a cross-sectional view of Cr after irradiation at (a) 0.1 dpa in a (112) grain; (b) 0.1 dpa in a (110) grain; (c) 0.1 dpa with a random crystal orientation; (g) 3 dpa [15]; and (h) 15 dpa. The insets in (a-b) show the typical structures of (d) voids, (e) dislocation loop raft, and (f) nested loops in the 0.1 dpa irradiated specimen.

3.2 Nested loops

Fig. 2 (a) presents the TEM bright field images of two typical troughs taken under 6 pairs of two-beam conditions in three zone axes used for the g-b analysis and inside-outside method to assess the loops nature. The size of the troughs is approximately 150 nm. The determined Burgers vector and nature of the loops are listed in Fig. 2 (e). The inner loops and outer loops exhibit the opposite Burgers vectors ($\pm \frac{1}{2}$ [111]) and inverse natures, with the large outer one being of vacancy type, making them dislocation troughs. Fig. 2 (c) is a schematic of the troughs in its habit plane. Fig. 2 (d) presents schematically a cross-section through a trough and showing the lattice planes of the material, noting that the lattice arrangement of the inner interstitial loops is the same as the surrounding perfect matrix. The interstitial nature of loops inside the troughs is only relative to the outer vacancy loop.

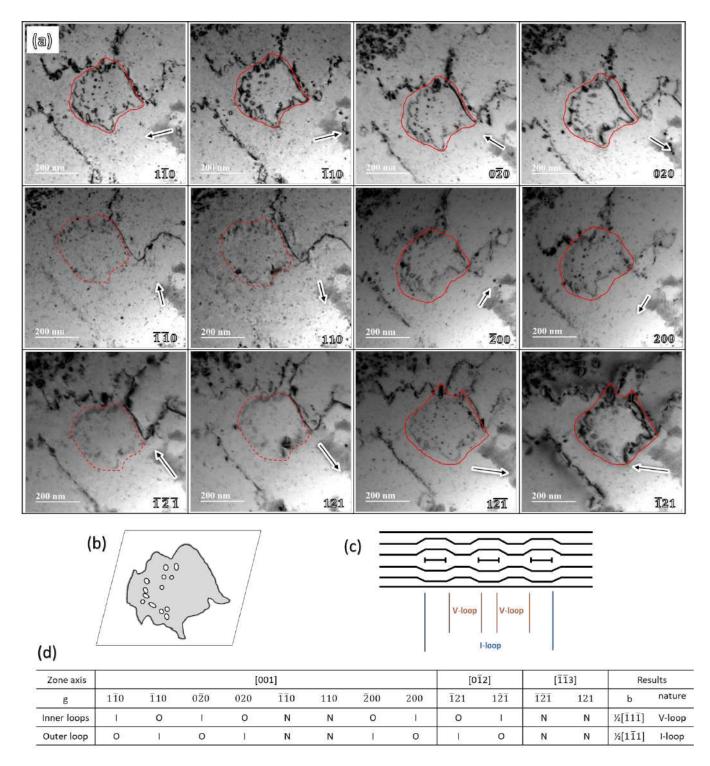
The examination of the Burgers vector and nature of the dislocation island is demonstrated in Fig. 3. Fig. 3 (a) is the TEM image of a dislocation island under the 6 pairs of two-beam conditions in three zone axes. The size of the island is about 300 nm. Fig. 3 (d) provides information on the Burgers vectors and natures of loops after characterization. The inner loops and outer loops exhibit the opposite Burgers vectors ($\pm \frac{1}{2} [111]$) and inverse nature types. Fig. 3 (b) is the schematic of the island in its habit plane, resembling a piece of cheese with multiple holes. The cross-section of the dislocation island is demonstrated by the lattice planes in Fig. 3 (c).

A possible mechanism for the formation of nested loops is the 1D migration of dislocation loops [29–33]. During the 1D migration process, when a large dislocation loop encounters a smaller dislocation loop with an inverse nature type, a hole can be formed inside the larger loop.



Note: "Y" means visible; "N" means invisible; "O" means visible in outside contrast; "I" means visible in inside contrast.

Fig. 2 Dislocation troughs in the 0.1 dpa irradiated Cr. (a) Bright-field TEM images of the dislocation troughs under 6 pairs of two-beam conditions; (b) A schematic of a dislocation trough in its habit plane; (c) The cross-section of a trough indicated by the lattice planes; (d) Analysis of the Burgers vector and nature of loops in the dislocation troughs.



Note: "Y" means visible; "N" means invisible; "O" means visible in outside contrast; "I" means visible in inside contrast.

Fig. 3. A dislocation island in the 0.1 dpa irradiated Cr. (a) Bright-field TEM images of the dislocation island under 6 pairs of two-beam conditions. The dashed circles represent invisible and solid circles mean visible; (b) A schematic of a dislocation island in its habit plane; (c) The cross-section of a dislocation island indicated by the lattice planes; (d) Analysis of the Burges vector and nature of loops in the dislocation island. Note: the lattice planes in (c) exhibit the same arrangement.

3.3 The ratio of interstitial and vacancy loops

The Burgers vector and nature of dislocation loops were extensively investigated in the three specimens. The characterization of dislocation loops was carried out separately in the defect formation region and defect diffusion region through the improved inside-outside method. Detailed information regarding the analysis of loops in the 0.1 dpa and 15 dpa irradiated specimens can be found in Appendix S1-S10. For the analyses of the 3 dpa specimen, please refer to our previous work [15]. A summary of the typical defect structures and their properties is provided in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5. In the defect formation region of the 0.1 dpa specimen, the analyses of dislocation loops were only analyzed in {110} and {112} grains, since the loops in other grains are too small to be analyzed. Most dislocation loops were observed to cluster in rafts, troughs, or islands, as depicted in Fig. 4 (a-c). Except for clustered dislocation loops, dislocation lines, individual dislocation loops were also observed. Dislocation loops in a raft exhibit the same Burgers vector and nature type, either being ½<111> interstitial type or ½<111> vacancy type. The structures of dislocation lines decorated with dislocation loops with the same Burgers vector were categorized as dislocation rafts, as well. Overall, three interstitial rafts, four vacancy rafts, two dislocation islands, and three vacancy troughs were analyzed in the defect formation region of the 0.1 dpa specimen. Considering the similar total area of interstitial and vacancy structures, the interstitial and vacancy dislocation loops was considered to be equal. Fig. 4 (d) shows the distribution of dislocation loops in the defect diffusion region of the 0.1 dpa specimen with random crystal orientation, where the vacancy loops only make up 8% of all the loops and the rest of them are interstitial loops. Fig. 4 (f-g) shows another distinctive dislocation loop structure formed in the defect diffusion region of the 0.1 dpa specimen in {112} grain. This structure consists of a cluster of large dislocation loops with different Burgers vectors and nature types, resembling a loop "skewer". The typical microstructures of the defect formation region and defect diffusion region in the 15 dpa specimen are displayed in Fig. 4 (e) and Fig. 4 (h), respectively. The dislocation loops in the defect formation region are small with sizes less than 20 nm. However, the dislocation loops in the defect diffusion region are much larger, especially the vacancy loops. Fig. 5 summarizes the vacancy loops to interstitial loops ratio in the defect formation region and defect diffusion region of the three Cr specimens irradiated to 0.1, 3 and 15 dpa. In the defect formation region, the ratio of vacancy loops increased with irradiation dose. In the defect diffusion region, among the three specimens, the 3 dpa specimen exhibits

the highest ratio of vacancy loops, reaching 30%, while the other two specimens show a minor presence of vacancy loops. The ratio of vacancy loops in the defect formation region of the 0.1 dpa specimen was obtained through roughly comparing the area of interstitial defects and vacancy defects in Fig. 4 (a-c), while in the diffusion region it is refer to the random grains without considering the large vacancy loops in Fig. 4 (f). It is worth noting that the statistical numbers of the analyzed dislocation loops are not high from 17 to 93, but they still provide evidence to confirm the majority type of loops present in the samples.

In the 0.1 dpa sample, most of the interstitials diffused to the defect diffusion region. Therefore, in the defect formation region, vacancies should be super saturated. However, the ratio of vacancy defect structures is almost equal to the interstitial defect structures. This can be attributed to the formation of voids, which consume vacancies and results in less vacancy loops formed.

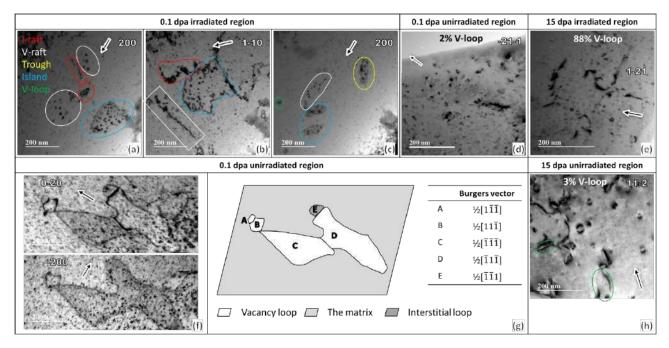


Fig. 4: TEM observation of the typical dislocation defects in the 0.1 dpa and 15 dpa irradiated specimens. Some of the small defects in (f) were induced by FIB during sample preparation, which were not successfully removed from electron polishing.

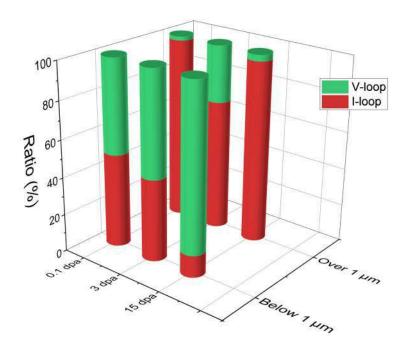


Fig. 5. The distribution of interstitial loops and vacancy loops in the irradiation region and unirradiated region of pure Cr specimens irradiated to 0.1, 3 and 15 dpa.

3.4 In situ TEM irradiation in the post-irradiated sample

As the formation of troughs and islands is suspected to be related to the 1D motion of dislocation loops, to confirm the 1D motion, in situ TEM irradiation was carried out in a sample from (112) grain. The experiment was performed at 300 °C, where the 1D migration of loops become obvious. The 1D migration of dislocation loops was observed along $\pm [1\bar{1}0]$ directions under [001] zone axis, as shown in Fig. 6. Fig. 6 (a-c) illustrates the 1D migration of one loop inside an island, while Fig. 6 (e-i) shows the 1D motion of an individual dislocation loop. These regions were selected from the same sample, specifically the one shown in Fig. 3. From the analyses of the dislocation island in Fig. 3, it is known that the dislocation loop inside the island is vacancy type. The observation of 1D motion of interstitial dislocation loops or defect clusters was widely reported in various materials [31,34–41]. However, the direct observation of 1D migration of vacancy dislocation loops was previously only observed in fcc gold [30] and nickel [42]. Here, it is observed for the first time in a bcc material.

The original video of the in situ TEM irradiation can be found in the data availability. It was observed that the migration directions of nearly all the dislocation loops or small defect clusters are along $\pm [1\bar{1}0]$ directions. The directions

correspond to the projection of the glide direction of $\pm \frac{1}{2}[1\overline{1}1]$ prismatic dislocation loops in the [001] zone axis. Therefore, it is reasonable to hypothesize that the residual small defects in the defect formation region primarily consist of $\pm \frac{1}{2}[1\overline{1}1]$ dislocation loops and/or $\pm [1\overline{1}1]$ crowdions [43]. Fig. 6 (d) demonstrates the geometry relationship between the crystal orientation of the examined specimen and the motion trail of the dislocation loops.

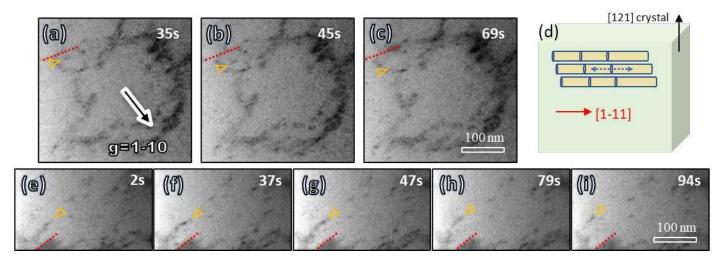


Fig. 6. 1D glide of dislocation loops in Cr. Observations were conducted by in situ irradiation in TEM with g vector of [$1\overline{10}$] under [001] zone axis. The sample is the post-irradiated one shown in Fig. 3. Image (a-c) and (e-i) show the glid of loops in area 1 and area 2, respectively, with opposite protected moving directions of [$1\overline{10}$] and [$\overline{110}$], respectively. (d) shows the crystal orientation of the sample and the glid direction of prismatic dislocation loops with Burgers vector of $\pm \frac{1}{2}[1\overline{11}]$. The projected glid direction of $\pm \frac{1}{2}[1\overline{11}]$ prismatic dislocation loops in (001) plane is $\pm \frac{1}{10}$. The video format data can be found in the data availability.

4. Discussion

4.1 The crystal orientation dependent microstructures in the 0.1 dpa irradiated sample

In the random grains of the 0.1 dpa sample, most of the defects are in the defect diffusion region and rarely formed in the defect formation region. This observation indicates that the mobility of defects under the present irradiation conditions is sufficiently high to enable most of them to diffuse out of the defect formation region. However, many large defects, including dislocation troughs, dislocation islands and individual dislocation loop can still be formed in the {110} and {112} grains.

The formation process of troughs and islands is suspected to be related to the slip of prismatic dislocation loops or the

migration of energy-favorable <111> close-packed crowdions [43], namely 1D migration of defects. It is important to note that the role of voidions, which are close-packed vacancies proposed by Matsukawa and Zinkle in fcc structural materials [30], is not considered here for two reasons. Firstly, the properties of voidions, including their close-packed direction and migration direction, are unclear in bcc structural materials, as they have rarely been reported [44]. Secondly, the defects observed in the defect diffusion region are predominantly of interstitial type, suggesting a negligible presence or low mobility of voidions.

The 1D migration of defects was confirmed through in situ irradiation TEM observations. Fig. 7 illustrates the 1D migration of defects in bcc structure materials in different crystal-oriented grains. In (011) and (112) grains, some defects are imprisoned in the irradiated region and can only migrate in directions parallel to the surface of the specimen or vertical to the irradiation beam, specifically dislocation loops of $\pm \frac{1}{2} = 111$ and $\pm \frac{1}{2} = 111$, crowdions of $\pm \frac{1}{2} = 111$ and $\pm \frac{1}{2} = 111$ and $\pm \frac{1}{2} = 111$ in (011) grains and $\pm \frac{1}{2} = 111$ loops, $\pm \frac{1}{2} = 111$ crowdions in (112) grains. This mechanism explains why the defects in (112) grain are primarily $\pm \frac{1}{2} = 111$ loops or $\pm \frac{1}{2} = 111$ crowdions migrating parallel to the specimen surface in the in situ experiment. The scarcity of other defects with migration directions not parallel to the surface is because the high mobility of these defects already enabled them to migrate into the surface and the defect diffusion region during the first irradiation period.

Based on the 1D migration path depicted in Fig. 7, the crystal orientation-dependent defect structures at the initial irradiation period are explicit. In {001} and {111} grains, as well as most other grains, the formation of nested loops should be challenging compared to {011} and {112} grains. This is because most of the defects in the former grains can easily migrate to the free surface or the defect diffusion region, making it difficult for them to accumulate and form nested loops. However, when the crystal orientation is precisely perpendicular to the <111> direction, including {011}, {112}, {123}, {134}, and {145} grains, some dislocation loops and crowdions are imprisoned in the defect formation region, consequently, the formation of troughs and islands become easy. It should be noted that at higher irradiation doses, more defects can remain in the defect formation region, as shown in Fig. 1, and the formation of troughs and islands may also become possible in grains with crystal orientations that are not precisely perpendicular to the <111> direction.

The formation of dislocation troughs and islands relates to the interaction and coalescence of dislocation loops and

crowdions in the defect formation region. Dislocation loops with the same Burgers vector and nature type can merge and form larger loops, while loops with inverse Burgers vectors can undergo recombination. When a smaller loop approaches the edge of a larger loop with an inverse nature, the larger loop shrinks by the same size as the smaller loop, resulting in irregular outer shapes of troughs and islands. Conversely, when a smaller loop enters the middle of a larger loop with an inverse nature, it creates a hole of the same size as the smaller loop, explaining the formation of inverse-type small dislocation loops within the troughs and islands. Notably, these small dislocation loops exhibit the same lattice arrangement as the matrix, as shown in Fig. 2 (d) and Fig. 3 (c). Since crowdions can move in the same direction as dislocation loops, their contribution to the formation of troughs and islands can be similar to interstitial loops. It should be noted that the dislocation loops formed by crowdions is not a simple assembly process. A bundle of <111> crowdions can only form a ½<110> loops by simple assembly. However, the dislocation loops in Cr turned out to be 1/2<111>. Zinkle and Matsukawa demonstrated that the habit plane of prismatic dislocation loops can be easily changed with a small shear stress [45]. The changes of Burgers vector of dislocation loops in bcc Fe were also experimentally observed [46]. A ½<111> loop can change to another ½<111> and a <001> loop can change to ½<111> loop, during electron irradiation or simple heating [46]. The changes of habit plane and Burgers vector of dislocation loops can be the reason for why the loops except for 1/2[1-11] ones can still be observed the (121) grain. Nevertheless, shape of the nested loops should also relate to the pointed defects. For example, the islands as interstitial structures are more attractive to vacancies, then result in shrinking or a formation of inner loop.

Another two phenomena support the proposed mechanism for the formation of nested loops. The first phenomenon is that in the defect formation region of (121) grain, $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ [1-11] defect structures are the dominant. 5/11 rafts/nested loops exhibit the Burgers vectors of $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ [1-11], as shown in Appendix S1-S3, and almost all the small defects are $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ [1-11] loops or crowdions, as demonstrate in section 3.4. The second phenomenon is that Fig. 1 (a-b) illustrates a higher density and smaller size of dislocation troughs and islands in the {011} grain compared to the {112} grain. This observation can be attributed to the fact that the imprisoned defects in {011} grains are twice of that in {112} oriented grains. Moreover, the {011} grain exhibits two types of dislocation loops and crowdions with distinct migration directions. These two types of defects can impede each other's motion, leading to a higher density of nested loops with smaller sizes.

The formation of the large outer loops in the troughs and islands could potentially be transferred from dislocation rafts.

In bcc materials, the formation of self-interstitial atom (SIA) cluster rafts is known to be highly efficient [47]. In the present specimens, both interstitial rafts and vacancy rafts have been observed, as depicted in Fig. 4. These rafts can readily assemble point defects and subsequently form larger dislocation loops.

The driving force behind the recombination of interstitial loops with vacancy loops can be the stress fields. The compression or tensile stress is not limited to small dislocation loops but can also be observed in large ones and even dislocation lines, as shown in Fig. 8. The tensile stress field in the region close to the dislocation loops or dislocation lines is larger, as the contrast is darker, than in the region away from it. To alleviate the localized compression field within a large interstitial loop, vacancy loops are attracted to this region, leading to the formation of multiple small vacancy loops inside the dislocation island. Conversely, interstitial loops can be attracted to the tensile field inside a large vacancy loop and accumulated into a bunch of small interstitial loops. The stress field surrounding dislocation lines also explains the decoration of small dislocation loops with dislocation lines. Overall, the interaction between large dislocation loops or dislocation lines with small defects towards a direction reduces the total tensile or compression stress in the material.

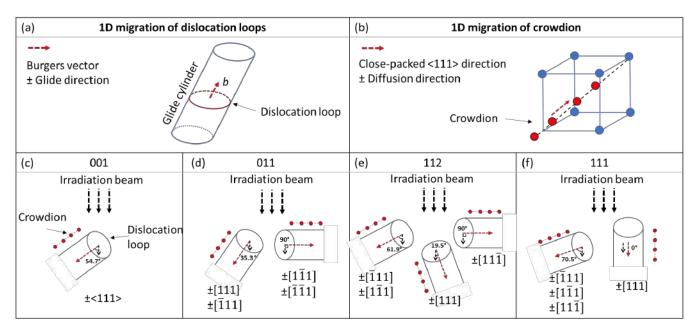


Fig. 7. The 1D migration of ½<111> prismatic dislocation loops and <111> close-packed crowdions in bcc structure materials under different irradiation beam directions. (a) Schematic of the 1D migration of dislocation loops. (b-e) The geometry relation of incident irradiation beam with the glide direction of prismatic loops with different Burgers vectors. The schematic only considers the angle between the irradiation beams and the moving directions of loops without considering the 3-dimensional relations.

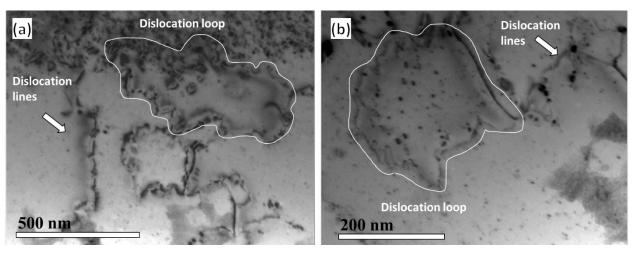


Fig. 8. The stress field shown by the darker contrast in the surroundings of dislocation lines and loops.

4.2 The mobility of dislocation loops

The mobility of interstitial loops decreases with size, as the smaller ones can migrate longer distances, as shown by the distribution of interstitial loops in the defect diffusion region. This mobility and size relationship was also confirmed by in situ irradiation experiments in ferritic/martensitic steels [48]. In addition, Derlet simulated that the diffusion coefficient of interstitial loops is inverse to the square root of the number of interstitials [49].

The mobility of vacancy loops differs from that of interstitial loops. The ratio of vacancy dislocation loops in the defect formation region increased with increasing irradiation dose. In the specimen irradiated to 15 dpa, the ratio of vacancy loops reached as high as 88%, with sizes smaller than 20 nm. This phenomenon suggests that the mobility of small vacancy loops is lower than small interstitial loops. In the defect diffusion region, extremely large dislocation loops were consistently observed in the three specimens. Some of them are as large as 500 nm, as shown in Fig. 4 (f). It is unlikely that these large vacancy loops were formed due to the aggregation of vacancies in the defect diffusion region, as vacancies exhibit low mobility. Therefore, it is expected that these large vacancy loops were migrated from the defect formation region with high mobility. The high mobility of large vacancy loops and the good stability of small vacancy loops indicate that the mobility of dislocation loops increases with their sizes.

Small vacancy loops are generally considered to be open dislocation loops [50]. Open vacancy loops represent planar voids without relaxation of local stress, while open interstitial loops represent planar interstitials [51]. On the contrary, when the localized stress in the middle of the loop is fully relaxed, the loops become closed (collapsed) dislocation loops [51]. Open vacancy loops, like voids, their migration can be difficult. On the other hand, infinite large vacancy loops are

considered to be closed loops [50], which can migrate as normal dislocations and potentially at a faster rate than the small open vacancy loops. In the defect diffusion region, the large vacancy loops are not fully collapsed into dislocation lines, as evidenced by the observable changes in stress field-induced contrast, as shown in Fig. 4 (f). Nonetheless, the larger vacancy loops can still migrate more rapidly compared to the smaller ones. The high mobility of big vacancy loops increases the efficiency of their recombination with interstitials loops.

4.3 The swelling rate

The swelling behavior of Cr [13,14] is different from other engineering materials [16,17,52–55]. These materials exhibit incubation period of swelling that no void swelling within several dpa. Then with increasing irradiation dose, the swelling rate increases. However, Cr exhibits a high swelling rate with low irradiation dose, then decreases and being stable with a low swelling rate. In the engineering materials, the void swelling are highly affected by the alloy elements [56–58] and the primary microstructures [57,59], such as dislocations and precipitates. Lu has demonstrated that alloy element Fe in Ni can reduce the void swelling through change the migration of defects from 1D motion to 3D motion [56]. The dislocations in materials can either reduce the void swelling [60] or enhance the void swelling [59,61].

In the 0.1 dpa irradiated sample of the random grains, almost no big defects can be formed in the irradiated region, but obvious void already formed. In contrast a high density of dislocation loops formed in the defect diffusion region. It is supposed that the high mobility of interstitials enables them to diffuse to the defect diffusion region and leave vacancies, which then form voids. Therefore, the high mobility of interstitials contributes to the high swelling rate in the initio irradiation stage.

The defect diffusion region was observed in 4.3 dpa irradiated W at temperature close to the swelling peak temperature [26], however, the swelling rate of W is different from Cr [62,63]. The swelling rates in neutron irradiated W at swelling peak temperature are increase with irradiation dose, being 0.13 %/dpa and 0.2 %/dpa at 0.5 dpa and 9.5 dpa, respectively. According to Zhang's results, the defect diffusion region in 4.3 dpa irradiated W is only about 0.5 µm [26], which is much less than that in Cr irradiated to 3 dpa. This phenomenon indicates that the mobility of interstitials in W at swelling peak temperature is lower than that in Cr. Therefore, the different mobilities of interstitials explain the different swelling behaviors in Cr and W.

In Cr, the evolution of the nested loops with increasing irradiation dose is shown in Fig. 9 (a-c). The size of the nested loops increases with irradiation dose and eventually transforms into dislocation lines in the 15 dpa sample. Schematic illustrations of the formation and evolution process of dislocation troughs and islands are shown in Fig. 10 (d-i) and Fig. 10 (j-o), respectively. Dislocation troughs and islands can serve as sinks for both interstitial and vacancy type defects, resulting in shrinkage or growth, respectively. According to the tensile field in Fig. 8, the recombination of defect structures could also happen even when the dislocation loop grows into dislocation lines. This eventually leads to a high recombination rate of interstitials and vacancies, thereby reducing the swelling rate of the material.

Ni shows similarity with Cr that the swelling rate is low at high irradiation dose [17]. However, Porollo think that the collapse of the dislocation network due to voids plays a crucial role in swelling saturation [57]. This phenomenon was also observed in the 15 dpa irradiated Cr, as shown in the yellow square in Fig. 9. In the present material, dislocations can be treated as large dislocation loops, as they are all formed by dislocation loops. When interstitial loops collapse at the periphery of void, it results in the shrinkage of the void. In contrast, the collapse of vacancy loops can result in a growth of the voids. The dislocation loops in the irradiated Cr and Ni [42] are mostly vacancy loops. In this case, it can not be concluded that the collapse of the dislocation network due to voids can contribute to the low swelling rate. However, it should be noted that the evolution of defects, including point defects, dislocation network due to voids can affect the evolution network due to voids can affect the evolution network due to voids can affect the evolution of point defects, which could affect the void swelling in return.

Fig. 9 shows that dislocation loops usually stay together with dislocation lines or large dislocation loops rather than voids, as shown in the red circles. Therefore, the recombination of dislocation loops with dislocation lines or large dislocation loops should be more significant than void absorbing dislocations. The reason for the dislocation loops staying together with dislocations or large dislocation loops should be the 1D fast migration of dislocation loops. The 1D migration of dislocation loops along only four directions, \pm [-111], \pm [1-11], \pm [11-1], and \pm [111], makes the possibility of a dislocation defect encountering another dislocation defect pretty high. The formation of such large, nested loops in the 0.1 dpa sample supports this assumption.

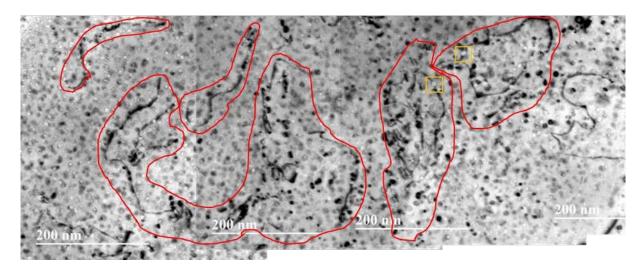


Fig. 9. Dislocation defects and voids in 15 dpa irradiated Cr

Another similarity between Ni and Cr is the observation of dislocation troughs [66–69]. In the same way as that in irradiated pure Cr, the observation of the nested loops in Ni can also be one of the reasons for the low swelling rate at high irradiation dose. In addition to the coplanar dislocation troughs, double and triple-layer interstitial dislocation loops were also observed in Ni and Ni alloys [66,67,70]. The multiple-layer dislocation loop structures are commonly observed in irradiated or quenched fcc structural materials, including Al [71,72], Cu [73], but the mixed interstitial and vacancy loop structure, troughs, was only observed in Ni [67] and Ni-Al alloy [66]. Similar to that in Cr, the troughs in Ni are not always observed in the irradiated specimen [74]. Although Chen suggested that the non-inert gaseous impurity and point defect supersaturation is necessary for the formation of troughs and multiple layer loops [66], there is still lack of a systematical study and direct evidence. A possible reason behind the occasional observation of troughs in Ni could be similar to that of Cr, which is crystal orientation dependent. Nevertheless, an analysis of crystal orientation-dependent defect structures in Ni is needed to reveal the formation mechanism of troughs and the reason for the low void swellings at high irradiation dose.

There are several differences between the coplanar defects in Ni and Cr. Firstly, in Cr both dislocation troughs and islands have been observed, while only dislocation troughs have been observed in Ni. Secondly, the dislocation troughs in Ni consist of faulted dislocation loops, while in Cr, they are perfect dislocation loops. Thirdly, the outer large loop of troughs in Cr has an irregular shape, whereas it has a regular shape in Ni. These differences suggest a possible different formation and evolution process for dislocation loops in the two materials. Nevertheless, the observation of troughs (in

Ni and Cr) and islands (in Cr) provides evidence for the recombination of dislocation loops with inverse nature, which could be used to explain the extremely low swelling rate in these materials independent of their crystal structures.

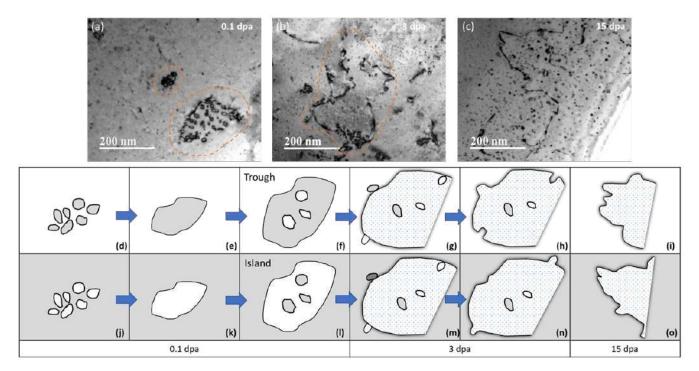


Fig. 10. The typical dislocation structures in (a) 0.1 dpa specimen, (b) 3 dpa specimen and (c) 15 dpa specimen and (d-o) schematics of the evolution of dislocation structures. The formation and evolution of dislocation trough and island in Cr. (d) Interstitial raft; (e) Formation of large interstitial dislocation loop from a raft; (f) Dislocation loop trough; (g-h) Interactions between trough and dislocation loops; (i) Dislocation lines formed after interactions of trough and loops; (j) Vacancy raft; (k) Formation of large vacancy dislocation loop from a raft; (l) Dislocation loop island; (m-n) Interactions between island and dislocation loops; (o) Dislocation lines formed after interactions of island and loops. It is noted that to be simple the evolution of dislocation structures does not consider the effect of point defects.

5. Conclusion

The present study aimed to elucidate the mechanism behind the low swelling rate observed in pure Cr upon irradiation through the characterization of irradiation-induced defect structures by TEM. Fe²⁺ irradiation was carried out on Cr at a swelling peak temperature of 550 °C, up to doses of 15 dpa. Our specific findings are the following:

1. The ratio of interstitial loops to vacancy loops was quantified in the defect formation region and defect diffusion region. In the defect formation region, the ratio of vacancy loops increased with irradiation dose from 50% in the 0.1 dpa specimen to 88% in the 15 dpa specimen. These results indicate the equal generation rate of interstitial loops and vacancy loops at the initial period and the good stability of small

vacancy dislocation loops at high dose stage. In the defect diffusion region, most of the dislocation loops are interstitial type. However, some extremely large vacancy loops with sizes as large as 500 nm were observed in the defect diffusion region, which are suspected to be diffused from the defect formation region with high mobility. Therefore, the mobility of vacancy loops is suspected to increase with loop size, which is contrary to interstitial loops.

- In situ ion irradiation in TEM revealed the 1D migration of dislocation loops and defect clusters. This
 observation confirmed the high mobility of small dislocation loops and defect clusters when irradiated at
 550°C.
- 3. For the first time dislocation islands were observed in materials and dislocation troughs were identified in bcc materials. The formation of these nested island and trough dislocation loops, is associated with the 1D migration of dislocation loops and their high residual stress field. The formation of nested loops suggests the direct recombination of interstitial loops with vacancy loops, which in turn provides a mechanism of annihilation of point defects. It provides new insight into reducing the swelling rate of materials, irrespective of their crystal structures.

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Research Plan

- (1) The stability of dislocation loops in the materials can highly influence the thermal stability and creep behavior of materials; therefore, studying the mobility of dislocation defects is necessary, which is on progress.
- (2) To improve the irradiation resistance of materials, one of the methods is to adopt solute elements as sinks for the recombination of point defects. The next step of this study is to investigate the solute element effect to the irradiation resistance of chromium.

成果リスト

Publication

- [1] L. Cui, Y. Du, H. Yang, R.E. Schäublin, Z. Yang, S. Kano, X. Hu, H. Abe, Nested loops explain low irradiation-induced swelling rate, Acta Mater. 267 (2024) 119700. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actamat.2024.119700
- [2] L.J. Cui, Y.F. Du, H.L. Yang, J.A.K. Jovellana, Q.Q. Shi, S. Kano, H. Abe, Improved irradiation resistance of Cr-Fe alloy for Cr-coated Zircaloy application in accident tolerant fuel, Scr. Mater. 229 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scriptamat.2023.115344.

Presentation in conference

【1】面向事故容错燃料包壳涂层应用的铬和铬合金的辐照损伤问题研究

Lijuan Cui, Yufeng Du, Huilong Yang, Robin E. Schäublin, Yang Zongda, Sho Kano, Xunxiang Hu, Hiroaki Abe

核反应堆技术全国重点实验室 2024 年学术年会, 2024-04-18, 成都

【2】透射电子显微镜分析铬基金属中位错环的性质

Lijuan Cui, Yufeng Du, Huilong Yang, Xunxiang Hu, Hiroaki Abe

四川省物理学会电子显微学专委会 2024 年度工作会议, 2024-06-29, 乐山

【3】应用于耐事故燃料包壳涂层的铬及铬合金辐照损伤研究

Lijuan Cui, Yufeng Du, Huilong Yang, Robin E. Schäublin, Yang Zongda, Sho Kano, Xunxiang Hu, Hiroaki Abe中国核学会辐照效应分会 2024年度学术年会,2024-08-22,西安

[4] TEM characterization of dislocation loops in post-irradiated and in-situ irradiated pure Cr Lijuan Cui, Yufeng Du, Huilong Yang, Robin E. Schäublin, Yang Zongda, Sho Kano, Xunxiang Hu, Hiroaki Abe

WOTWISI-7 conference, 2024-05-60, Xianmen

2024H-10

核融合炉用機能性被覆における反跳粒子の影響

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核融合炉ブランケットでの使用が検討されている機能性被覆の電気絶縁性能に与える反跳粒子の影響の解明を行うために、反跳粒子を模擬したイオンを注入した被覆試料に対して電気化学測定を実施した。この研究で電気の通り道である電子輸送チャネルが増加するため、電気伝導度はイオン注入により上昇することが示唆された。

キーワード: トリチウム,透過,被覆,照射,反跳粒子

1. はじめに

将来の基幹エネルギー源として有望な核融合炉は、燃料として重水素とトリチウムを利用する. これらの水素同位体は高温下で金属中を高速で拡散することから、特に放射性物質であるトリチウムの透過漏洩が課題とされている. その解決策として、水素低透過性のセラミックス被覆を配管等に施すことが検討され、現在までにセラミックスを材料とした被覆が優れた水素同位体透過低減性能を示している. 近年では、核融合炉内の放射線による被覆への照射影響に関する研究が進展し、被覆の微細構造の変化が明らかにされた. さらに、核融合炉内の高エネルギー中性子と炉内の粒子が反跳し、被覆内部に粒子が留まり、被覆の電気絶縁性能に影響を与える可能性がある. しかし、この事例について研究例が少なく反跳粒子がセラミックス被覆に与える影響が不明瞭であった. そこで本研究では、核融合炉ブランケット用水素同位体透過低減被覆に対して、反跳粒子として考えられている鉄イオンを注入し炉内の状況を模擬した. その後電気化学測定を実施することで、被覆の電気特性に及ぼす反跳粒子照射影響を明らかにすることを目的とする.

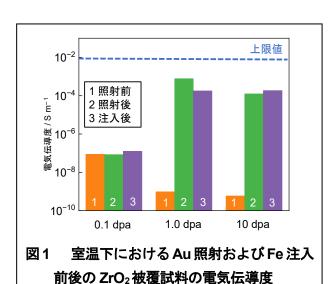
2. 実験手法

低放射化フェライト/マルテンサイト鋼 F82H を基板として用い,水素同位体透過低減被覆とし酸化ジルコニウム (ZrO_2) 被覆を有機金属分解法で作製した.また,被覆表面に金属電極を作製した.作成した被覆表面に 8 MeV の金イオンを用いて照射欠陥を導入した。次いで,1.0 MeV の鉄イオンを 350 $^{\circ}$ C,450 $^{\circ}$ C,および 550 $^{\circ}$ C で照射し,被覆内に 1000 または 2000 appm の鉄イオンを注入した.その後,室温下から 550 $^{\circ}$ C まで 50 $^{\circ}$ C ずつ昇温しながら電気化学測定を実施した.

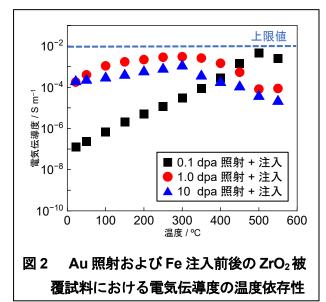
3. 結果と考察

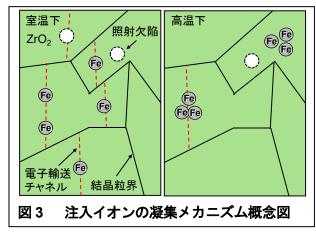
本報告では、ZrO₂被覆試料の電気化学測定の結果について述べる.

図1に室温下で金イオンを照射した試料に対して、 鉄イオン照射によって被覆試料内部に 2000 appm の注 入量を与えた ZrO2被覆試料の電気伝導度を示す. 鉄イ オン照射前に金イオンを照射し 1.0 dpa および 10 dpa の照射欠陥を導入した試料では電気伝導度が最大 6 桁 上昇した.その後温度を50 ℃ ずつ上昇させながら電気 伝導度を測定した結果を図2に示す. 0.1 dpa を照射し た試料では温度が上昇すると単調に電気伝導度も上昇 したが、1.0 dpa および 10 dpa を照射した試料では 350 ☆以上の測定では電気伝導度が減少する結果が得られ た. この電気伝導度の変化は被覆内部の電子の通り道 の変化が関係していると考える.被覆試料に対して照 射欠陥の導入および班長粒子の注入を行った際のイメ ージ図を図3に示す.図3に示すように、室温下に近い 温度帯では注入されたイオンと導入された照射欠陥が 電子輸送チャネル (電子の通り道) となり電気伝導度



が上昇する.一方温度が上昇させ350 ℃以上では照射欠陥の回復および注入イオンの減少が起こり電気伝導度の低下が起こることが示唆された.





4. まとめ

本研究では、照射欠陥を導入した後に鉄イオンを注入した核融合炉ブランケット用水素同位体透過低減被覆に対して、電気化学測定を実施した。金イオン照射により照射欠陥を導入し、さらに鉄イオンを注入した試料では、室温下で電気伝導度が最大6桁向上することが確認された。温度上昇を伴う測定では、0.1 dpa 照射した試料は電気伝導度が単調に増加した一方で、1.0 および10 dpa 照射した試料では350℃を超えると電気伝導度が減少する傾向を示した。これらの結果は、照射欠陥と注入されたイオンが電子輸送チャネルとして機能することで導電性が向上し、温度上昇により欠陥の回復やイオンの減少が生じることで伝導度が低下することを示唆している.

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2024L-02

パルス&プローブ法を用いる超高速反応の研究

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パルスプローブ方式に基づくピコ秒パルスラジオリシスは、放射線誘起反応初期過程解明に有効な手法であるが、これまで測定可能な波長領域が紫外可視領域に限られていた。そこで近赤外マルチチャンネル分光器をパルスプローブシステムに組み込み、紫外可視用分光器と同時に稼働させることで、測定波長領域を大幅に広帯域化することができた。

キーワード: ピコ秒パルスラジオリシス、放射線誘起反応初期過程、近赤外計測、電子溶媒和

1. はじめに

高温高圧流体の放射線分解反応過程を把握することは軽水炉水化学の基盤として重要である。高温下の反応は極めて迅速に進行するため高い時間分解能で追跡することが有効であるが、近年ピコ秒パルスラジオリシスの適用が可能となり 40ps 程度の時間分解能が達成されたことで、高温下におけるピコ秒~ナノ秒領域の反応追跡や初期過程の議論が可能となってきている。フェムト秒レーザを白色化しマルチチャンネル分光器により多波長計測を行うことで測定効率も大幅に向上し、時間プロファイルだけでなく 400 nm~1000 nm の範囲の吸収スペクトルの情報も同時に得ることが可能となった。ただこれは決して十分とは言えず、測定波長領域の拡大が望まれていた。例えば高極性溶媒中の溶媒和電子は室温下であれば吸収バンドが 600~800nm 周辺に存在するので観測は容易であるが、溶媒和前の状態や高温下の溶媒和状態等は>1000 nm の近赤外領域にあるため観測が容易ではなくなる。より広帯域な波長領域における測定を可能にし多種多様な活性種の状態を捉えられるようにすることは長年の課題であった。今回、紫外可視に加えて近赤外マルチチャンネル分光器もパルスプローブシステムに組み込み、2 台を同時に稼働させることで測定波長領域の拡大を図った。

2. 実験

電子線ライナック(照射ビーム源)およびフェムト秒レーザ(分析光源)を用いたピコ秒パルスプローブシステ ムにおいて、プローブ側のフェムト秒レーザは白色化した後、ビームスプリッタで2つに分岐しそれぞれ紫外可視 用(2048 ch) および近赤外用マルチチャンネル分光器(512 ch) へ入射させた。各分光器はそれぞれ 200nm~1100 nm、850 nm~1700 nm の範囲をカバーするが、より広帯域なプローブ光を得るため、フェムト秒白色光はレーザ 基本波 (780 nm) のみならず 2 倍高調波 (390 nm) からも発生させた。フェムト秒レーザは 14 Hz で稼働させるが、 各々は 1 ms 間隔のダブルパルスであり、前者はビーム照射前、後者はビーム照射の直前~直後に照射試料を通過 するようタイミング調整されている。これにより前者を参照光として後者の相対的な光強度変化から吸光度(照射 による変化)を求めることができる。その際、ダブルパルスの前者と後者は区別して計測されなければならないた め、2台の分光器はプローブ光に同期した外部トリガで動作させることに加えて、両者で全く同じプローブパルス を取りこぼすことなく取り込めるようにする必要がある。各分光器で 1 ms 以内に露光からデータ保存まで完了し なければならないが、1パルスごとに逐ーPCへのデータ転送を行っていては間に合わないため、時間スキャン中 は検出器メモリに溜め込む方式にすることで高繰り返しで入射してくる光に追従することができた。一回の時間ス キャンにおいて取り込むプローブパルス数は約8000パルスであり、各パルスについて波長チャンネル数が2台合 わせて 2560 ch あるため、一回の測定で 70 MB 程度のデータサイズとなる。 吸収シグナルの小さい試料では一回の 測定では S/N 比が十分ではないため、全く同じ時間スキャン測定を数回~十回程度繰り返し積算・平均化するこ とで S/N 比を確保した。

3. 結果と考察

各分光器で取得した光強度データを直ちに統合して一 つの紫外〜近赤外スペクトルが得られるようデータ処理 系プログラムを更新しプローブ光計測を行った。試料に よっては自己吸収もあるため測定可能な波長範囲が狭ま るものもあるが、そのような場合を除けばおよそ 370 nm ~1600 nm の範囲で吸収測定が行えることが確認された。 DMF およびエチレンジアミンを試料に用いてピコ秒 パルスプローブを行った結果をそれぞれ図1、図2に示す (上図は過渡吸収スペクトル、下図は時間挙動)。これら の溶媒中に生成する溶媒和電子の吸収バンドは水やアル コール等よりもかなり長波長側に存在しているため、従 来の計測システムで捉えることは困難であったが、今回 のシステム改善によりクリアに観測できるようになった。 エチレンジアミンでは時間分解能と同等の時間で速やか に溶媒和電子が生成しているが、DMF ではこれより少し 長い時間で溶媒和電子が生成する様子が見られている。 その際吸収スペクトルのシフトをあまり伴っていないこ とから、高極性溶媒とは異なる電子溶媒和過程を経る可 能性が示唆される。今後、更に詳細な解析を進めるとと もに、高温高圧実験にも適用していくことで極性・非極 性を含めた高温流体全体の放射線化学反応機構の特性解 明へ展開していけるものと期待される。

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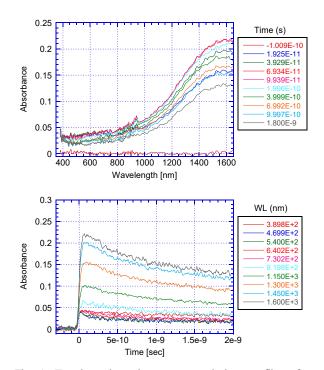


Fig. 1. Transient absorption spectra and time profiles of solvated electron in DMF solution at room temperature measured by NIR-extended picosecond pulse-probe.

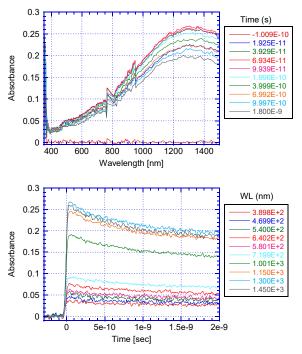


Fig. 2. Transient absorption spectra and time profiles of solvated electron in EDA solution at room temperature measured by NIR-extended picosecond pulse-probe.

[4] Hashimoto Kohei, Takata Yui, Muroya Yusa, Kozawa Takahiro, Machida Kohei, Enomoto Satoshi, Naqvi Bilal, De Simone Danilo, Reaction mechanisms of Sn-based polarity-change copolymer resists with different counter anions, designed for extreme ultraviolet lithography, Jpn. J. Appl. Phys., 64, 2, 026501, 2025.

2024L-03

不定比金属組成、微細組織を制御した超伝導体結晶の ピンニング特性に及ぼす電子線照射効果

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表題の研究課題のもと、令和6年度は昨年度に引き続き、最近開発した単一方向結晶成長法(SDMG法)で育成した RE123 溶融凝固バルクについて電子線照射によるピンニングセンター導入の効果を調べる研究に取り組み、臨界温度および臨界電流特性におよぼす電子線照射効果を評価した。

キーワード: 高温超伝導体、銅酸化物、電子線照射、ピンニング、不定比金属組成

<u>1. はじめに</u>

超伝導体への電子線照射により導入される欠陥はピンニングセンターとなり、臨界電流特性を大きく向上させることが可能である。ピンニングセンターは欠陥や常伝導析出物の形状、大きさ、分布のほかに、超伝導母相の凝縮エネルギーの改善もピンニング力に寄与する。超伝導凝縮エネルギーに影響する RE/Ba 固溶の制御のため、仕込金属組成を制御したバルクについて、電子線照射により点欠陥状のピンニングセンターを導入し、その前後の超伝導特性を調べることにより臨界電流特性の改善の指針を確立することを目指している。今年度は昨年度に引き続き、一方向溶融成長(SDMG)法で育成した全体が結晶性の良い c-growth 領域のみからなる Dy123, Y123 バルクの小片試料に電子線照射を行い、RE 元素の違いによる照射効果の違いを調べた。

2. 実験方法

Fig. 1 に示す手順で実験を行った。RE123: RE211 = 7:3 (RE = Dy, Y)のモル比で混合された TEP 社製混合微細粉末を850°C, 12 h で仮焼成した粉末に Ag2O を 10 wt%, CeO2 0.5 wt%を添加した前駆体ペレットを成型した。EuBCO バルクを種基板として、Dy123, Y123 溶融凝固バルクを作製した。得られたバルクは還元アニール (P_{02} = 1 kPa, 850°C, ~36 h)と酸素アニール(425°C, ~200 h)による酸素量制御を行った。小片試料はバルク中心で種基板から 2 mm 離れた位置から切り出し、電子線照射を計 3 回行い欠陥の導入をした。これらの試料について、照射前及び照射量が異なる試料の磁化率を SQUID 磁束計により測定し、臨界電流密度 J_c を算出した。 J_c の算出は磁化ヒステリシスの幅から拡張 Bean モデルを用い、照射量は単位面積を通過した電子の量として電流値と照射時間から見積もった。照射量は 1 回目が 3.3×10^{17} cm²、2 回目が 3.2×10^{17} cm²、3 回目が 3.3×10^{17} cm² である。

3. 結果と考察

Fig. 2 に SDMG 法で育成した Dy123, Y123 バルクの小片試料の繰り返し電子線照射後の磁化率の温度依存性および 60 K における J_c の磁場依存性を示す。同じ試料に対して計 3 回の電子線照射を行っており、図中の open シンボルは未照射、closed でかつ丸のシンボルは 1 回目(J_c 0.3×10 J_c 10 cm²)、closed で四角のシンボルは 2 回目(J_c 0.5×10 J_c 10 cm²)、closed で菱形のシンボルは 3 回目(J_c 0.8×10 J_c 10 cm²)の総照射量を示している。各試料の J_c 10 はじめは照射量が増大するとともに増加するが、 J_c 10 cm² 程度まで照射量が増加すると低下に転じた。今回の照射に伴う J_c 10 変化は、酸素のはじき出しにより酸素量が減少し、キャリアの弱いオーバードープ状態から最適ドープ状態、アンダードープ状態へと変化したためと考えられる。 J_c 10 磁場依存性より、1 度目の照射後、特に Y123 で J_c 10 が大きく上昇した。Y123 のほうが Dy123 より RE/Ba 固溶量が小さく、凝縮エネルギー密度が高い超伝導が発達していることが示唆された。2 度目の照射後は、Y123 はほとんど J_c 5 特性に変化は見られなかった一方、Dy123 では照射量の増加に伴うさらなる J_c 2 の向上が見られた。さらに、3 回目の照射後にはどちらも J_c 3 は大きく低下しており、 J_c 2 の低下に加え、欠陥密度が増加しすぎたために有効なピンニングセンターとしてはもはや寄与していないことが示唆された。

新たに SDMG 法で育成した Y123 バルク小片を用意し、3 回目の照射時からこのバルクも同時に照射を行った。磁化率の温度依存性と 77 K および 60 K における J_c の磁場依存性を Fig. 3 に示す。このバルクについても、照射後に T_c の向上が見られており、酸素のはじき出しにより弱いオーバードープ状態から最適ドープ状態に近づいたことが考えられる。 J_c の磁場依存性から、 T_c 0 K ともに低磁場中での J_c 1 に改善が見られた一方、高磁場中では未照射バルクを下回る J_c 5 特性となっている。 T_c 6 Fig. 2 で示した Y123 バルクでは磁場に大きく依存しない概ね一様な

 J_c の向上が見られていたこととは傾向が異なっている。この結果は電子線照射により酸素量減少の影響が大きく現われたことを示唆するものであるが、 T_c は同程度の高い値であり、最適ドープ状態からわずかにアンダードープ状態になっていると考えられる。今後はより強いオーバードープ状態に酸素量を調整した試料に電子線照射を行い、照射により酸素量が減っても弱いキャリアのオーバードープ状態にとどまるようにすることによって、一層の臨界電流特性の改善を目指していく。

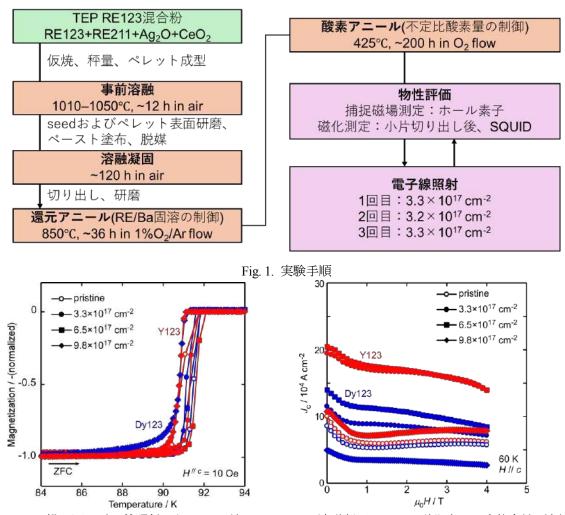


Fig. 2 繰り返し電子線照射した SDMG 法 Dy123, Y123 溶融凝固バルクの磁化率の温度依存性(左)と $60~\rm K$ における J_c の磁場依存性(右)

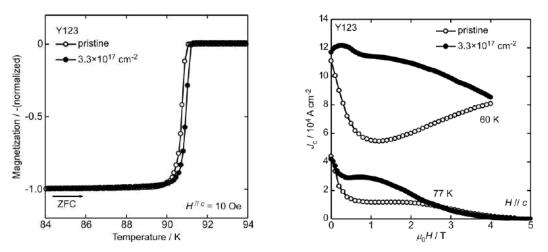


Fig. 3 SDMG 法で育成した Y123 溶融凝固バルクの電子線照射前後の磁化率の温度依存性(左)と 77 K, 60 K における J_c の磁場依存性(右)

2024-L05

高速応答シンチレータの開発と性能評価

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セリウム線量計は古くに用いられていた化学線量計である。本研究では、セリウム線量計に含まれる Ce⁴⁺イオン の還元により生じる Ce³⁺イオンが電子励起状態にあると想定し、電子線ライナックを励起源として時間分解発光 スペクトルを測定した。

キーワード: 化学発光、水シンチレータ、セリウム線量計、還元反応

1. はじめに

液体シンチレータは、高エネルギー物理学などで利用される大規模検出器でよく利用される。一般的な液体シンチレータは、トルエンやキシレンを溶媒とし、 $1\sim2$ 種類の蛍光体分子が溶解されたものである。大量のトルエンやキシレンを利用するにあたり、それらの引火性が高いことは安全性の観点から問題視されてきた。近年、より引火点の高いリニアアルキルベンゼンを利用することにより、この危険性の低減が図られている。一方で、これは根本的な解決とは言い難い。

これらの懸念は、水を溶媒とすることで回避できる。大型検出器の多くでは、検出器内の放射性核種を極限まで低減することでバックグランドの低減が図られており、この観点からも、純化技術の発達している水であれば溶媒として適切である。さらに、いくつかの用途では金属元素の添加が必要であり、この観点でも、有機溶媒から構成される従来の液体シンチレータよりも水溶液の方が適切である。

水溶液ベースでのシンチレータの実現が難しいのは、電離後の過程が有機溶媒と水で異なるためである。有機溶媒では、放射線により電離後の再結合により、電子励起状態が形成される。この励起エネルギーを蛍光体分子へと移動させ、その発光としてシンチレーションを得る。一方で、水の場合には電離後の再結合前に分解が生じてしまうため、再結合に基づく電子励起状態の形成が困難である。

本研究では、水の電離後に生じる化学種の高い化学エネルギーを利用し、水溶液中のイオンや分子との化学 反応に基づく発光を利用することを企図した。いくつかの候補系を挙げて検討を進めており、本稿では、硫酸セリウム (IV) の硫酸水溶液を対象として用いた。この水溶液系はセリウム線量計として古くから用いられている。 我々は、水和電子と Ce⁴イオンの反応により生じる Ce³+イオンが電子励起状態になりうることを、セリウムイオンや水和電子の酸化還元ポテンシャルと Ce³+イオンの最低電子励起エネルギーの関係から見出した。そこで、この水溶液系にフルオレセインを蛍光体分子として加えた水溶液について調査した。

2. 結果と考察

図1に、硫酸セリウム (IV) とフルオレ セインの硫酸水溶液のシンチレーションスペ クトルを示す。380 nm 付近のピークは、フル オレセインを添加した水溶液と同様のもので あった。なお、電子線励起の場合には、水溶 液中で生成したチェレンコフ光をフルオレセ インが吸収することで励起状態となり、その 蛍光が生じると予期される。観測されたシン チレーション減衰挙動は、フルオレセインの 蛍光寿命よりも長く、フルオレセインを添加 していない場合のシンチレーションの減衰挙 動(おそらく Ce³⁺イオンによるもの)と同様 であった。これらの結果から、Ce⁴⁺イオンと 水和電子の反応による電子励起状態の形成お よび化学発光が生じうることが強く示唆され る。

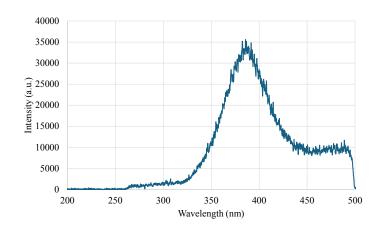


図 1 硫酸セリウム (IV) とフルオレセインの硫酸水溶 液のシンチレーションスペクトル

2024L06

MA 分離抽出剤の放射線分解メカニズムの研究

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1:原子力機構. 2:東大院工

マイナーアクチノイド及び希土類の一括抽出プロセスで利用が見込まれる N.N.N',N'-テトラオクチルジグリコー ルアミド抽出剤は、放射線照射下で励起状態を経由して分解することが知られている. そこで本研究では、励起状 態の生成過程を明らかにするため、抽出剤とドデカンの混合溶媒を用いたパルスラジオリシス実験を実施した。

キーワード: マイナーアクチノイド,溶媒抽出,TODGA,パルスラジオリシス.

1. 緒言

高レベル放射性廃液からのマイナーアクチノイド(MA)分離は、廃棄物の減容及び有害度低減において重要な 課題である. N,N,N',N'-テトラオクチルジグリコールアミド(TODGA)は、MA及び希土類に対して高い選択性と 抽出性能を示す(Y. Sasaki, et al., J. Nucl. Sci. Tech., 44, 405 (2007))ことから、この分離プロセスの候補抽出剤の一つと されており、実用化に向けた研究が進められている(Y. Ban, et al., Solv. Extr. Ion Exch., 37, 27 (2019)). しかし、MA分 離プロセスが想定される高線量の放射線環境下では、抽出剤の放射線分解が避けられず、分解生成物が抽出性能や 分離効率に影響を及ぼす可能性がある.これまでのパルスラジオリシス実験により、ドデカン中に溶解した TODGA は励起状態(TODGA*)を経て放射線分解することが示されている(T. Toigawa, et al., Phvs., Chem. Chem. Phvs., **23**, 1343 (2021)). 一方, その生成過程についての詳細は明らかにされておらず, 特にドデカンの放射線分解を介し た間接効果の寄与については十分に理解されていない。そこで本研究では、TODGA*の生成過程を明らかにするこ とを目的として、TODGA及びn-ドデカン(DD)の混合溶媒系におけるパルスラジオリシス実験を実施した.特に昨 年度は、間接効果による TODGA*の生成の寄与を定量的に評価することを試みた.

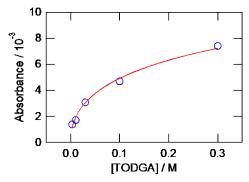
2. 実験

TODGA 及び n-ドデカンの混合溶液を調製し、アルゴンガスで脱気したものを試料として用いた. パルスラ ジオリシス実験では、東京大学大学院が有する線形加速器から供給される 35 MeV 電子線(パルス幅: 20 ns)を線源 として、電子線と同期したキセノンフラッシュランプを分析光源として用いた。また TODGA*の吸収は 380 nm に て観測した.

3. 結果と考察

TODGA/DD 混合溶液中で観測した TODGA*の吸収の TODGA 濃度に対する依存性を図 1 に示す. n-ドデカン 溶液中では、n-ドデカンの放射線分解により生じるラジカルカチオン(DD^+)が TODGA と反応し、 $TODGA^+$ ・が生

成されることが知られている(C.A. Zarzana et al., Solvent Extr. Ion Exch., 33,431 (2015)). さらに誘電率の低い n-ド デカン溶液中では、生成された TODGA+ が電子と再 結合することで TODGA*に至ると考えられる. 本実験 において、TODGA*の生成量は TODGA 濃度に対して 直線的な関係を示さず、上に凸の曲線を描いた。この 挙動は、TODGA*の生成が間接効果に由来することを 示唆している. さらに、TODGA*の生成量を捕捉剤濃度 依存を表す経験式である WAS 式に基づいて解析した 結果,生成量はWAS式に良く一致することが確認され た. これらの結果は、TODGA*の生成が DD+・との反応 およびその後の電子との再結合によって進行すること を支持するものである. 今後は拡散シミュレーション を通じて, 生成過程の詳細なメカニズムを検討する予 定である.



TODGA/DD 溶液中で生成した TODGA* 図 1 の吸収の TODGA 濃度に対する依存性

成果リスト

特になし

2024年度専攻内行事一覧等

年月日	行 事 内 容 等				
2024. 4. 1	原子力専攻(専門職大学院)入学式				
2024. 6. 21	危機対策管理委員会(WEB開催)				
2024. 6. 27	運営諮問会議(WEB開催)				
2024. 6. 28	総長マネジメントレビュー				
2024. 8. 8	第19回先進原子力科学技術に関する連携重点研究討論会および原子力機構・量研機構施 設利用共同研究,弥生研究会成果報告会(Webex開催)				
2024. 8. 8	第21回連携重点研究運営委員会(Webex開催)				
2024. 8. 23	原子力安全管理委員会(WEB会議)				
2024. 11. 1	危機対策管理委員会(WEB開催)				
2023. 11. 8	消防訓練(覚書訓練)の実施				
2024. 11. 29	危機対策管理委員会(WEB開催)				
2024. 12. 6	原子力防災訓練				
2025. 1. 17	第43回一般共同研究専門委員会(ZOOM開催)				
2025. 2. 27	第98回原子力機構施設利用共同研究委員会(Z00M開催)				
2025. 3. 24	原子力専攻(専門職大学院)学位記授与式				
2025. 3. 28	2024年度(令和6年度) 共同利用運営委員会(ZOOM開催)				

東京大学大学院工学系研究科原子力専攻 共同利用運営委員会委員名簿 (R6.4.1 現在)

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<i>)</i>]	長谷川 秀一	11 11	"	11	R4. 4. 1~
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<i>II</i>	松山 成男	東北大(院・工)量子エネルギー工学専攻	"	11	R5. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
<i>II</i>	河原林 順	東京都市大(工)原子力安全工学科	"	IJ	R5. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
"	佐々木 晶	阪大(院・理)宇宙地球科学専攻	"	IJ	R5. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
"	渡辺 幸信	九大(院)総理工 エネルギー科学部門	"	11	R5. 4. 4~R7. 3. 31
"	加美山 隆	北大(院・工)量子理工学部門	"	IJ	R5. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
3. 3 (4)	門馬 利行	日本原子力研究開発機構	理事	11	R6. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
IJ	羽島 良一	量子科学技術研究開発機構	上席研究員	11	R5. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
IJ	豊川 弘之	産業技術総合研究所	総括研究主幹	"	R5. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
<i>)</i>]	小関 忠	高エネルギー加速器研究機構	施設長	"	R5. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
<i>)</i>]	田野井 慶太朗	東大(院・農)アイソトープ農学教育研究施設	教授	11	R5. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
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<i>)</i>]	村上 健太	// // // // // // // // // // // // //	准教授	11	R5. 4. 1~R7. 3. 31
8	仁藤 彰郎	"(工・情)事務部	総務課長	幹事	R4. 4. 1~
<i>II</i>	阿部 弘亨	〃・(院・工)原子力専攻	教授	IJ	R5. 4. 1~
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<東京大学大学院工学系研究科原子力専攻共同利用運営委員会規程より抜粋>

第3条 3 委員は、専攻長が委嘱した次の各号に掲げるものとする。 (1) 専攻教授 (2) 東京大学大学院工学系研究科教授

(3) 他大学の原子力研究関連教員

(4) その他の学識経験者

第8条 委員会に、幹事若干名を置く。

2 幹事は、東京大学大学院工学系・情報理工学系研究科等の教職員のうちから専攻長が委嘱する。 第9条 委員会及び専門員会の庶務は、専攻事務室が取り扱う。

令和6年度 UTNL レポートリスト

No.	著者名	標題
R-506	共同利用管理室	令和 6 年度 共同利用成果報告書