

SOLID STATE CHEMISTRY

Annual Research Highlights

(1) Magnetodielectric effect of perovskite EuTiO_3 epitaxial thin film

Perovskite EuTiO_3 shows antiferromagnetism and quantum paraelectricity induced by Eu^{2+} ($4f^7$) and Ti^{4+} ($3d^0$), respectively. The magnetism and paraelectricity are strongly coupled with each other, resulting in a large magnetodielectric effect, where the dielectric constant is largely increased by application of an external magnetic field. Epitaxial thin films are suitable for investigating the coupling between magnetodielectric effect and lattice distortion. However, dielectric properties of EuTiO_3 thin films have been scarcely reported because of large leakage currents caused by oxygen vacancies in the films. Furthermore, it is difficult to compensate for oxygen vacancies by post-annealing, since EuTiO_3 is easily decomposed by oxidation processes.

We deposited an epitaxial SrTiO_3 protection layer on the EuTiO_3 thin film to stabilize the perovskite structure of EuTiO_3 under oxidative conditions, and succeeded in full compensation of oxygen vacancies without amorphization. The obtained EuTiO_3 film exhibited magnetodielectric effect for the first time in a thin film.

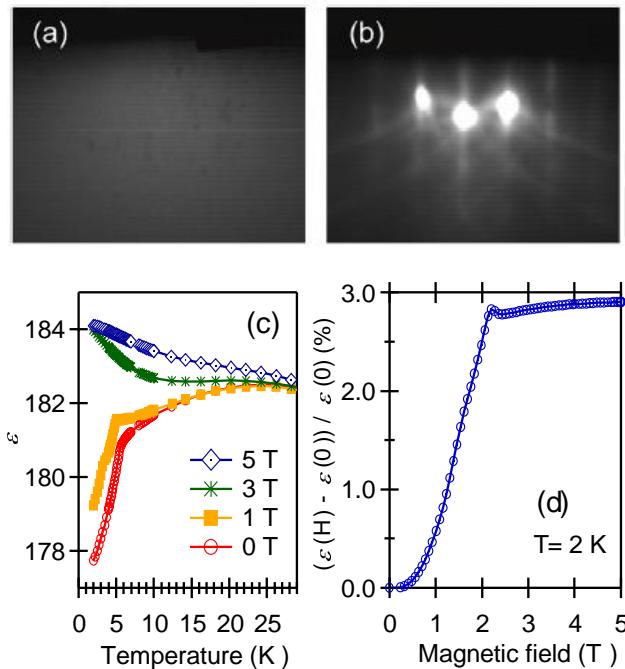


Fig. 1 (a, b) Reflection high-energy electron diffraction patterns of an air-annealed EuTiO_3 thin film (a) without protection layer and (b) with SrTiO_3 protection layer. (c) ϵ - T curves of $\text{Ag}/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3/\text{EuTiO}_3/\text{Nb}:\text{SrTiO}_3$ capacitor structure under various magnetic field. Magnetic field was applied perpendicular to the surface. (d) ϵ - H curve of the EuTiO_3 thin film at 2 K.

1.(1)-2) *App. Phys. Lett.*, **102**, 042902 (2013)

(2) Electronic states and transport properties of Eu substituted infinite layer strontium ferrite thin films

SrFeO_2 has attracted considerable attention because it is an isostructural analog of the infinite-layer cuprate SrCuO_2 , which exhibits high-transition-temperature superconductivity due to carrier doping. We recently demonstrated that electron carriers can be doped into SrFeO_2 by partially substituting Eu ions for Sr sites ($\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x\text{FeO}_2$) in the form of an epitaxial thin film. The $\text{Sr}_{0.9}\text{Eu}_{0.1}\text{FeO}_2$ film showed resistivity as low as $\sim 0.15 \Omega\text{cm}$ at room temperature, which is approximately four orders of magnitude lower than that of undoped SrFeO_2 .

In this study, the electronic and carrier transport properties of $\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x\text{FeO}_2$ epitaxial thin films were investigated. X-ray photoemission and absorption spectroscopy measurements revealed that the Fe and Eu ions in the $\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x\text{FeO}_2$ films were essentially divalent and trivalent, respectively, regardless of the Eu ion content. Based on the transport measurements performed at 300 K, the carrier concentration (n_e) and Hall mobility of the $\text{Sr}_{0.85}\text{Eu}_{0.15}\text{FeO}_2$ films were found to be $2.5 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and $0.94 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$, respectively. The carrier activation efficiency of Eu^{3+} , defined as n_e/n_{Eu} (where n_{Eu} is the Eu ion concentration), was as low as $\sim 0.9\%$. We speculate that excess oxygen atoms incorporated between FeO_2 sheets behave as carrier compensators and/or strong scatterers.

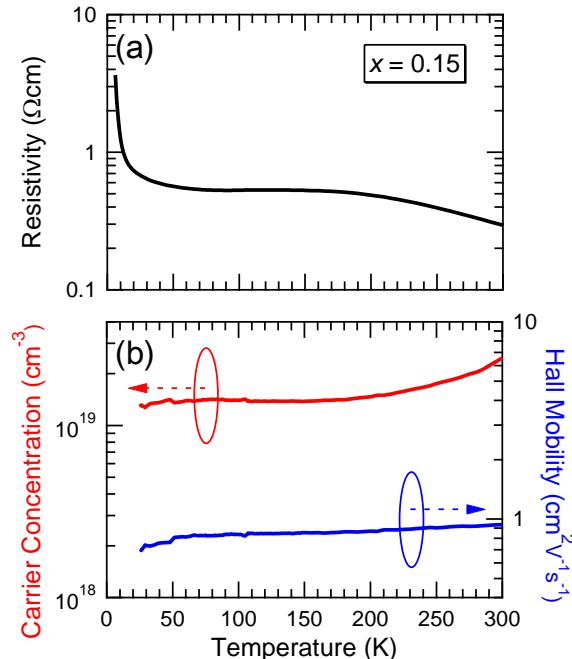


Fig. 2 (a) Resistivity vs. temperature curve for the $\text{Sr}_{0.85}\text{Eu}_{0.15}\text{FeO}_2$ film. (b) Carrier concentration and Hall mobility, plotted as functions of temperature, for the $\text{Sr}_{0.85}\text{Eu}_{0.15}\text{FeO}_2$ film.

1.(1)-6) *J. Cryst. Growth*, **378**, 165-167 (2013)

固体化学研究室

研究ハイライト

(1) EuTiO₃エピタキシャル薄膜の磁気誘電効果

ペロブスカイト型酸化物 EuTiO₃ は Eu²⁺ イオンに起因する反強磁性と Ti⁴⁺ イオンに起因する量子常誘電性が強く結合し、磁場による誘電率の増大（磁気誘電効果）を示す。エピタキシャル薄膜は格子歪による磁気誘電効果の制御に適した試料であるが、合成時に導入される酸素空孔により大きなリーク電流を示すため、誘電率の電気的な測定は不可能であった。そこで、ポストアニール処理による酸素空孔の補償を試みた。

EuTiO₃ のエピタキシャル薄膜をパルスレーザー堆積法で合成し、大気中で加熱処理したところ、Eu が +3 値に酸化されるとともにアモルファス化した。この問題を解決するために、結晶構造が同じで酸素イオン電導性の高い SrTiO₃ のエピタキシャル薄膜を保護層として EuTiO₃ 薄膜上に堆積し、ペロブスカイト構造を安定化した。その結果、結晶構造を保ちつつ酸素空孔を補償することができ、薄膜試料として初めて磁気誘電効果を観測することに成功した。

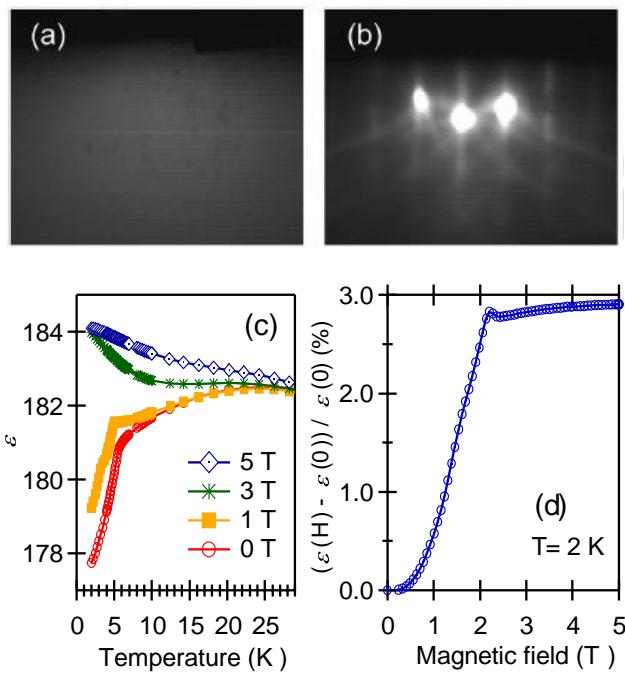


図 1 (a, b) 大気中でのポストアニール処理後の EuTiO₃ 薄膜の反射高速電子線回折パターン。(a) SrTiO₃ 保護層なし、(b) 保護層あり。(c) Ag/Nb:SrTiO₃/EuTiO₃/Nb:SrTiO₃ キャバシタ構造の ϵ -T 曲線の磁場依存性。磁場は薄膜の面直方向に印加した。(d) 2 K における EuTiO₃ 薄膜の誘電率の磁場依存性。

1.(1)-2) App. Phys. Lett., **102**, 042902 (2013)

(2) 無限層構造を持つ Sr_{1-x}Eu_xFeO₂ 薄膜の電子状態と輸送特性

無限層構造を持つ鉄酸化物 SrFeO₂ は、高温超伝導体の母物質である銅酸化物 SrCuO₂ と同じ構造であることから、キャリアドープにより超伝導など特異な電子物性の発現が期待されている。最近我々は、SrFeO₂ 薄膜の Sr を Eu に 10% 置換することで、300 K での抵抗率が約 4 枝減少することを見出した。この抵抗率減少の起源は、Eu ドープによる特異な電子状態の発現に関係していると考えられる。

そこで本研究では、Sr_{1-x}Eu_xFeO₂ のエピタキシャル薄膜を作製し、その電子状態と輸送特性を調べた。Sr_{1-x}Eu_xFeO₂ ($0 \leq x \leq 0.2$) 薄膜の光電子分光及び X 線吸収分光測定を行ったところ、Eu の置換量にかかわらず、Sr_{1-x}Eu_xFeO₂ 薄膜中の Fe 及び Eu イオンはそれぞれ 2 値と 3 値であることが明らかになった。また、ホール効果測定から、Sr_{0.85}Eu_{0.15}FeO₂ 薄膜の 300 K でのキャリア濃度とホール移動度がそれぞれ $2.5 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ と $0.94 \text{ cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ であり、Eu³⁺ のキャリア活性化率が 0.9% と見積もられた。これらの結果から、FeO₂ の層間に入り込んだ過剰酸素原子が、キャリア補償あるいは強い散乱中心として働くと推測された。

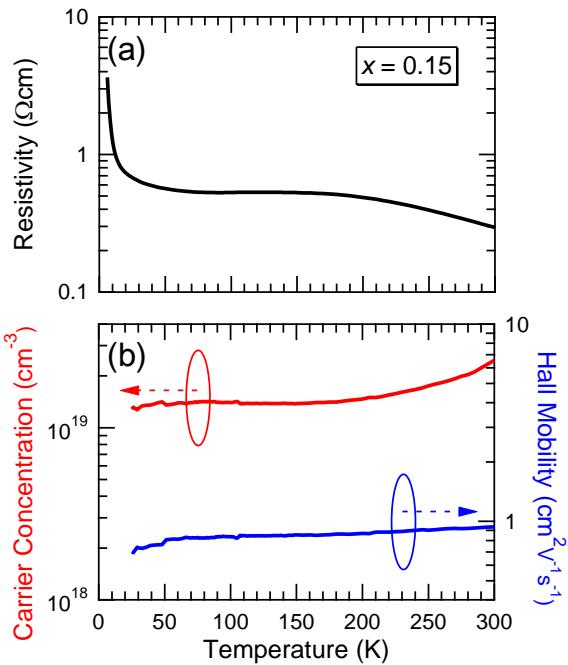


図 2 (a) Sr_{0.85}Eu_{0.15}FeO₂ 薄膜の電気抵抗率の温度依存性。(b) Sr_{0.85}Eu_{0.15}FeO₂ 薄膜のキャリア濃度とホール移動度の温度変化曲線。

1.(1)-6) J. Cryst. Growth, **378**, 165-167 (2013)

1. 原著論文

(1) Refereed Journals

- 1) J. Jacimovic, R. Gaal, A. Magrez, J. Piatek, L. Forro, S. Nakao, Y. Hirose and T. Hasegawa, "Low Temperature Resistivity, Thermoelectricity, and Power Factor of Nb Doped Anatase TiO₂", *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, **102**, 013901/1-013901/3 (2013).
- 2) K. Shimamoto, K. Hatabayashi, Y. Hirose, S. Nakao, T. Fukumura and T. Hasegawa, "Full Compensation of Oxygen Vacancies in EuTiO₃ (001) Epitaxial Thin Film Stabilized by a SrTiO₃ Surface Protection Layer", *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, **102**, 042902/1-042902/4 (2013).
- 3) E. Sakai, K. Amemiya, A. Chikamatsu, Y. Hirose, T. Shimada and T. Hasegawa, "X-ray Absorption and Magnetic Circular Dichroism Characterization of Fe-doped TiO_{2-δ} Thin Films", *J. Mag. Mag. Mater.*, **333**, 130-133 (2013).
- 4) C. Yang, Y. Hirose, S. Nakao and T. Hasegawa, "c-axis-oriented Growth of Anatase TiO₂ Thin Films on Glass Substrate with SrTiO₃/TiN Template", *J. Cryst. Growth*, **376**, 66-69 (2013).
- 5) M. Ohtomo, Y. Tsuchida, N. Muraya, T. Yanase, S. Sakai, T. Yonezawa, T. Nagahama, T. Hasegawa and T. Shimada, "In-Plane Orientation Control of 2,7-Diphenyl[1] benzothieno[3,2-b][1]benzothiophene Monolayer on Bismuth-Terminated Si(111) Vicinal Surfaces with Wettability Optimization", *J. Phys. Chem. C*, **117**, 11555-11561 (2013).
- 6) A. Chikamatsu, T. Matsuyama, T. Katayama, Y. Hirose, H. Kumigashira, M. Oshima, T. Fukumura and T. Hasegawa, "Electronic and Transport Properties of Eu-Substituted Infinite-Layer Strontium Ferrite Thin Films", *J. Cryst. Growth*, **378**, 165-167 (2013).
- 7) K. Shimamoto, Y. Hirose, S. Nakao, T. Fukumura and T. Hasegawa, "Solid Phase Epitaxy of EuTiO₃ Thin Films on SrTiO₃ (100) Substrates with Different Oxygen Contents", *J. Cryst. Growth*, **378**, 243-245 (2013).
- 8) S. Okazaki, T. Ohhashi, S. Nakao, Y. Hirose, T. Hitosugi and T. Hasegawa, "Wet Etching of Amorphous TiO₂ Thin Films Using H₃PO₄-H₂O₂ Aqueous Solution", *Jpn. J. Appl. Phys.*, **52**, 098002/1-098002/3 (2013).
- 9) K. S. Yeo, S. Nakao, Y. Hirose, T. Hasegawa and Y. Matsuo, "Application of Sputter-deposited Amorphous and Anatase TiO₂ as Electron-Collecting Layers in Inverted Organic Photovoltaics", *Organic Electronics*, **14**, 1715-1719 (2013).
- 10) A. Watanabe, Y. Kotake, Y. Kamata, A. Chikamatsu, K. Ueno, H. Misawa and T. Hasegawa, "Photoelectrochemical Behavior of Self-Assembled Ag/Co Plasmonic Nanostructures Capped with TiO₂", *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.*, **5**, 25-29 (2013).

(2) その他

2. 総説・解説

3. 著書

- 1) 中尾祥一郎、長谷川哲也：“透明導電性酸化物の新展開”、「未来を拓く元素戦略」、(化学同人、2013)、pp.87-91.

4. その他