

**Report of the International Review
Committee on the Meeting at the Hiroshima
Synchrotron Radiation Center
March 14-15, 2024**

Review of Scientific Research

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Executive Summary

The International Review Committee (IRC) met at Hiroshima University on March 14-15, 2024, to review the scientific programs and the future plan of HiSOR. The IRC had been provided with extensive background material before the meeting and complementary information during the review.

The HiSOR management and scientists were most helpful in answering questions and providing extra materials requested during the review and the IRC commends the Director for a very professionally organized meeting. The IRC also wants to express its gratitude for the hospitality it was shown throughout its stay at HiSOR.

The review was in conjunction with the 28th Hiroshima International Symposium on Synchrotron Radiation. This allowed the IRC to listen to a number of excellent presentations by HiSOR scientists and users and interact with young scientists at a poster session that gave a very nice survey of recent research activities. The posters were very informative and consistently of excellent quality. The IRC was impressed by the high motivation of the young students involved in HiSOR research activity.

In the opening address to the Symposium the Vice President of Hiroshima University, Professor Atsushi Sugeta underlined the important role of HiSOR for research and education at this University. The IRC was impressed by the commitment the University Administration has to the success of HiSOR. He further explained that HiSOR has become a crucial part of the new national funding, the J-Peak program, which started this year to enhance the research and industrial cooperation of outstanding universities. Hiroshima University plans to enhance its collaboration with semiconductor, meta matter, and bionanotechnology industries utilizing HiSOR, which is a unique synchrotron radiation facility among Japanese universities.

The Director of HiSOR, Professor Kenya Shimada, gave a most impressive summary of the research activities during the last five years. The scientific productivity is remarkable with a reasonable number of publications, a significant fraction in the most distinguished peer-reviewed physics, chemistry, and biology journals. IRC was particularly impressed by the effort of HiSOR for a consistent operation during the COVID-19 period and a quick recovery afterward in its scientific productivity and user activity.

HiSOR has been highly successful in the implementation of the “Joint Usage” format imposed by MEXT of Japan, in which HiSOR staff scientists are directly involved in the collaborative research triggered by external users in addition to their own research activity. The IRC congratulates HiSOR to this success and strongly recommends that the “Joint Usage” format is continued with a proper support from MEXT and Hiroshima University. The IRC also acknowledges that collaborations with world-renowned international researchers account for about 63% of the publications produced and are established solidly as an important part of the HiSOR operation. The IRC thinks that HiSOR has contributed to the development of VUV

synchrotron-radiation-based science of the world. HiSOR is in an excellent position to further expand these activities in attracting world-leading researchers and to enhance Japan's role in global scientific collaboration.

The IRC finds that HiSOR is doing exceptionally well in the maintenance and continued upgrades of the accelerator systems, the beamlines, the end-stations, and off-line supporting facilities; in particular considering the largely-limited number of staff and operating cost.

The IRC is highly impressed by the number of graduate students who got their master's and doctoral degrees based on works using HiSOR, which amounts to 50 and 33 students, respectively in 2017-2023. This number is gradually increasing demonstrating the increasing educational contribution of HiSOR. This outcome fits ideally to the expected role of a synchrotron radiation source belonging to a University.

Professor Shimada emphasized five focused research areas for HiSOR, on each of which the corresponding HiSOR staff reported a more detailed summary of the activity.

- High-Resolution Photoemission Spectroscopy for Electronic Structure Analysis
- Spin-Resolved Photoemission for Spin Structure Analysis
- Soft X-Ray MCD of Surface Nano Structures
- VUV Circular Dichroism Spectroscopy of Biomolecules
- Light Sources Accelerators and Insertion Devices

The IRC summarizes its opinion on the HiSOR activity in the above five research areas as follows.

High-Resolution Photoemission Spectroscopy for Electronic Structure Analysis

The rotation of the BL-1 main chamber around the light incidence allows for a unique setup where the degree of linear polarization remains at 100% all the time. Such a polarization-dependent ARPES measurement enables users to disentangle multi-band systems and the orbital texture of each band based on the dipole selection rule. The dramatically decreased beam spot size, new nano stage, and new analyzer enable users to perform the most precise measurements.

The high-resolution variably polarized low-energy photons from the APPLE-II undulator at BL-9A provide an excellent environment to investigate fine details in the electronic structure near the Fermi level. The installation of the fully motorized 6-axes goniometer and the new analyzer with a wide detector angle (ultimately ± 30 deg, presently operating at ± 19 deg) enables users to cover significant ranges of k-space for high-quality ARPES measurement, which is more challenging at low photon-energy. The electrodes installed in the manipulator provide exciting opportunities for researchers to do in-operando measurements.

The recently commissioned μ -Laser ARPES machine has proven to be a highly competitive

setup and has gotten much attention from different groups inside and outside of Japan for its attractive combination of spatial, angular, and energy resolution.

Spin-Resolved Photoemission for Spin Structure Analysis

Equipped with a very-low-energy-electron-diffraction (VLEED) spin detector, that was developed in-house with an order-of-magnitude-higher efficiency than a conventional high-energy Mott spin detector, and Apple II undulator synchrotron radiation in a very efficient photon energy range, HiSOR has been one of the most active and competitive centers for spin-resolved ARPES (S-ARPES) research in the world.

In his talk Dr. Miyamoto gave a status report of this facility. The VLEED spin-resolved ARPES system has demonstrated an energy resolution of $\Delta E \leq 10$ meV, an angular resolution of 0.4° and the capability of 3D spin vector analysis, which are among the highest resolutions reached in spin-resolved ARPES in the world and enables precise spin-resolved measurements that require high energy and angular resolutions.

The versatile sample facilities permit the preparation of a variety of samples efficiently, which was updated with lower-temperature capability down to 6 K.

The system was further upgraded by reducing the beam size on the spot by 1/10 (500×100 micron scale) with a capillary mirror. This will be important for various exfoliated 2D materials and in-operando measurements.

The IRC also heard about the construction of an extra off-line spin-ARPES system using 6-eV laser, which provide higher energy and momentum resolution, a different photon energy range, and a much higher spatial resolution of 5 micron. The IRC agrees that this system is a powerful complement to the existing spin-ARPES beamline facility in various ways.

The IRC is impressed by the continued upgrade of the system and the continued production of high-level research results and publication by the internal group, domestic users and international users.

The IRC also find that the on-going development of the VLEED spin detector system utilizing multi-channel spin detector would be another important contribution of HiSOR to the world community when it is successfully constructed.

Soft X-Ray MCD of Surface Nano Structures

In the light of the publication and proposal record provided over the last 5 years (2018-2023), BL14 beamline and XMCD endstation have successfully accomplished remarkable results over the period, with around 10-15 manuscripts in good quality peer review journals (plus some recent excellent results pending publication in judgment of the results shown in the 28th HiSOR

meeting). The talk by Dr. Masahiro Sawada (BL14 scientist), and the additional user presentation by Dr. Naoyuki Maejima (from Rikkyo University and Institute of Molecular Science presentation) highlighted the use of XAS and XMCD approaches on the investigation of hybrid 2D/FM interfaces and $\text{Ni}_x\text{P}/\text{Fe}_2\text{P}$ bilayers, evidencing excellent performance and the capability to complete cutting edge nanomagnetism studies.

Besides, a novel endstation for soft x-ray reflectometry is under installation and appears to be in large progress or almost ready for commissioning (no measurements were yet shown). This effort is commendable and well received: such an instrument enables complementary approaches to the XAS, XMCD techniques and broadens the beamline usage, offering novel opportunities and widens the portfolio of techniques at the service of the HiSOR community.

Looking back at the recommendations for XMCD endstation already made by the International Review Committee back in 2018 (see related 2018 report), one finds: i) extension of the cryogenic temperatures below liquid nitrogen (i.e. liquid Helium); ii) implementation of a larger (high) field magnet, either a superconducting magnet or a high field magnet; iii) addition of a fluorescence sensor for measurements on insulating samples. Such recommendations still apply now in 2024, and will be the highest priority recommendations for BL14. We advise to look onto cryogen free solutions (cold gas recirculation, recondensing), 2T fast ramp (2T/s) electromagnets for fast field switching (especially if polarization switching remains unavailable) and implement even low-cost simple diode-based fluorescence, transmission/x-ray excited luminescence detection which are really low cost but provide a lot of additional information or solutions to insulating samples, operando studies.

It is too early to provide recommendations on the soft x-ray reflectometry endstation, but addition for a 2D detector (CCD, sCMOS) enabling off-plane resonant scattering (transmission, GISAXS, but in soft x ray range even grazing angle is not so relevant or interesting) is worth start thinking about. This would become even more relevant if HiSOR is updated to a synchrotron source with enhanced coherence.

It feels urgent to increase staffing of the beamline to further boost the already good productivity of the beamline and XMCD endstation, which will become even more relevant in the context of an eventual machine upgrade. One way will be fostering the participation of the beamline scientist on national research grants as PI, in collaboration with other researchers, in order to have shared PhDs and postdocs.

The beamline upgrades should take into account the possibility of an updated HiSOR machine, so any significant investment of money and resources is also useful and well adapted to such eventual novel scenario and the corresponding beamline or endstations conditions (which may differ from present).

VUV-CD Spectroscopy of Biomaterials

BL-12 represented by Dr. Koichi Matsuo has been and still is proof of a well functioning beamline. The field of interest includes the biophysical and structural biology. BL-12 offers a continuous operation during the working hours, allowing circular (CD) and linear (LD) dichroism as well as absorption spectroscopy. The vacuum-ultraviolet (VUV) CD spectrophotometer at BL-12 extends the CD spectra to the VUV region down to 170 nm for aqueous solutions and to 140nm for films. Low noise, low sample consumption (microliter range) and quick data acquisition provide structural information, that is unattainable with conventional CD instruments. Applications include membrane proteins, saccharides, nucleotides and disordered protein structure analysis, as well as protein-protein interactions, protein-nucleotide interactions and protein lipid interactions.

The group of Dr. K. Matsuo has been joined by a Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim (assistant professor), who has been a real asset considering that he has already published! Also, like previously (2018) stated, the recruitment and of new beamline-staff increases the possibilities for exploring the beamline as well as accommodating and helping users and recruiting students more efficiently. I have been impressed by the present output 17 papers and usage of the VUV-CD. Keeping in mind that there has certainly been an interruption during the COVID pandemic and its restrictions.

Developments in place such as the vertical acquisition dispositive including a Schwartzchild focusing lens, microfluidic devices controlling the protein membrane dynamics (time resolved), as well as multi well plate reading and last but not least a Cvette flow cell for analysis of macromolecular orientation within liquid samples are new methodologies and devices, which add up to the existing equipment such as the sublimation chamber, for thin film preparations of organic chiral molecules, and microfluidic continuous flow and stopped flow set-ups.

The installation of an automated temperature stepping mode (-20°C to 100°C) for CD and absorption spectroscopy is now in place and allows access to thermodynamics and thermal-stabilities assays of biological macromolecules in solution. Further developments which have been discussed with the beamline staff include the development and implementation of a dedicated linear dichroism.

The latest addition of the ChiroPoly Probe system for real-time monitoring of CD signals from free radical polymerisation processes will be a great asset also to attract scientist from chemistry backgrounds in addition to life scientists.

The IRC strongly supports the investigations into these novel developments to pave the way for a new HiSOR light source. VUVCD will be an essential part of the new beamlines in the potential upgrade to HiSOR-II.

In a conclusion, important improvements over the past 6 years have been made. BL-12 remains and is a very productive tool for structural biology, glyco-biology and in a more general way

for chrial macro-molecular studies where other techniques fail due to size of the molecules or their complicated flexible structures.

Light Sources Accelerators and Insertion Devices

The IRC is impressed by the performance of the HiSOR light source despite its age of 28 years and being operated by a very small accelerator group. Pursuing aging-related issues with high priority and updating the control system are measures which are highly appreciated. Replacement of the presently leaking copper absorber should also be considered for the other dipole as a preventive measure.

The Director of HiSOR explained future storage ring options with a circumference ranging from 40 to 50 m for a diffraction-limited new facility HiSOR-II with six straight sections. The IRC fully agrees that technical improvement of this already very optimized machine is hardly possible and stable operation is becoming more and more difficult, while the research opportunities in physics, chemistry and biology offered by HiSOR are indispensable. Given the time scale for designing, constructing and commissioning a new light source, the IRC strongly recommends that the Hiroshima University decides on future plans for HiSOR as soon as possible and forwards them to the MEXT level.

Investment in HiSOR pays best when that machine is used to full capacity. The present operation time of 1600 hours per year for users may suggest that the demand for such a light source is not very high. In order to avoid such an impression and as requested by the users, HiSOR should make an effort to operate for more hours. The IRC understands that operation time is limited by manpower, HiSOR may consider the options that have been successfully practiced at other light sources. That is, leaving the machine unattended after the last injection, and training students as operators. The latter has the positive side-effect that more students get interested in master/doctoral work at HiSOR.

Not only the beamlines but also the accelerator physics group would profit from additional manpower, particularly when preparing a Conceptual Design Report to apply for a new machine. A sound concept for such a machine requires detailed simulations including nonlinear effects and a professional technical layout of accelerator components. The IRC recommends funding for one additional accelerator physicist and at least one more engineer or technician.

Future of HiSOR

The Director of HiSOR explained the future plan of the HiSOR, which mainly focuses on the construction of a new synchrotron to replace its 28-year-old machine. The IRC agrees fully with the fact that the old synchrotron is not very close to ending its lifetime and the continuation of a stable operation would become more and more difficult from now on. This will make the

continuation of the very high-quality domestic and international research activity in HiSOR impossible in near future. The IRC also fully agrees that the research opportunity offered by HiSOR is indispensable in the physics, chemistry, and biology community worldwide and cannot be replaced by other facilities. Considering the long time for the construction of a new synchrotron radiation facility, the IRC strongly recommends that the future plan of HiSOR be decided as soon as possible at the Hiroshima University and MEXT level. The current plan proposed by HiSOR Director is to make a new compact synchrotron radiation source with an electron energy of 500 MeV and four to six undulators. The IRC acknowledge that this is a reasonable and strategic plan to compromise the budget/man-power situation and the scientific opportunity. The IRC strongly supports the future plan of HiSOR.

Pohang, March 30, 2024.

Han Woong Yeom

Chair, on behalf of the IRC

Introduction

The Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, HiSOR, is the only synchrotron radiation facility that is attached to a national university in Japan. It was established in 1996, as part of the academic policies of the Japanese government. The mission of HiSOR is to promote advanced research in the field of condensed matter physics and biomolecule research using synchrotron radiation in the ultraviolet and soft x-ray range, as well as to develop human resources. In 2010, HiSOR was authorized as a “Joint Usage / Research Center” by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). As a result of extensive research activities in collaboration with researchers from inside and outside of Japan, HiSOR was graded “A” for the 1st term-end evaluation in 2015 and “A” in 2022 by the MEXT. In 2016, the authorization as the Joint Usage / Research Center was extended for 6 more years. The mid-term evaluation is planned in 2024.

According to this authorization, HiSOR is focusing on the following research:

1. Research on quasiparticles by ultrahigh resolution photoemission spectroscopy
2. Research on spin structures by spin- and angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy
3. Structural analysis of biomolecules in solution by VUV-CD
4. In situ fabrication and characterization of magnetic nanostructure by SXMCD
5. R&D for a compact low-emittance light source

In this context the International Review Committee (IRC) was charged to evaluate the scientific research activities at HiSOR. Below is a detailed assessment of the five research areas listed above.

The IRC had been provided with extensive background materials in advance of the evaluation that took place March 14-15, 2024. The evaluation was in conjunction with the 28th Hiroshima International Symposium on Synchrotron Radiation. This gave the IRC an excellent opportunity for insights into the activities at HiSOR. In the opening address the Vice President of Hiroshima University, Prof. Sugeta, emphasized the important role of HiSOR for research and education at Hiroshima university. Dr. Shimada, the director of HiSOR, gave a clear perspective of the present activities and future plans for the facility. Five HiSOR scientists, Drs. Miyamoto, Sawada, Matsuo, Ideta and Kato gave presentations of the key areas of the research. In a lively poster session with 32 contributions, young researchers presented their results on well-prepared posters. The IRC greatly appreciated the opportunity to interact with the enthusiastic and highly motivated students.

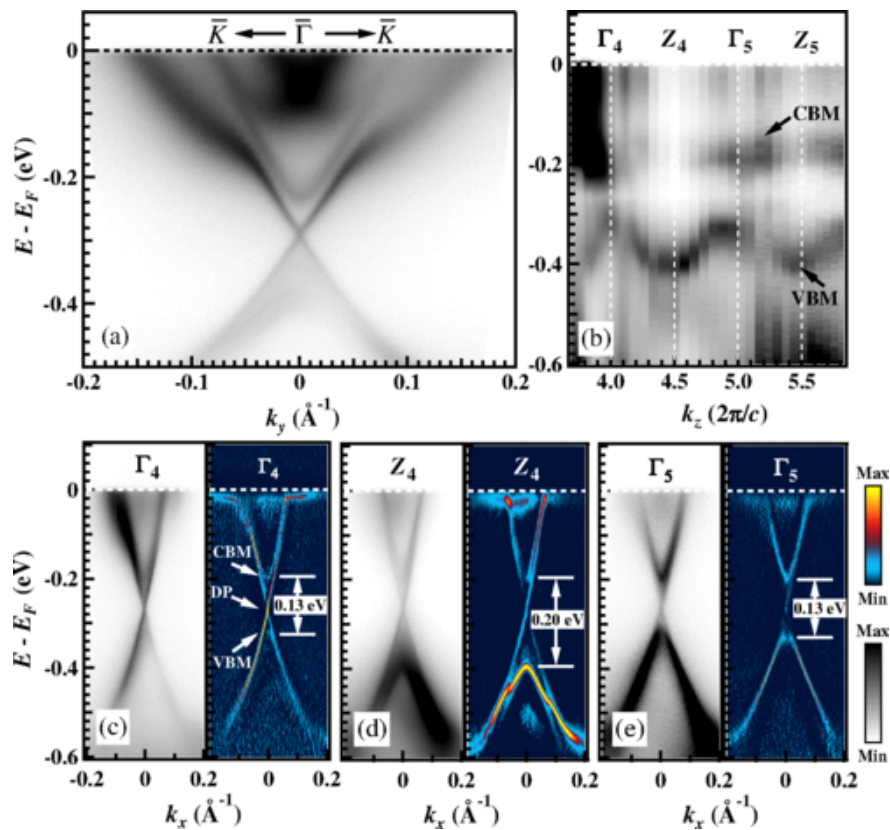
During the evaluation process on March 14 the HiSOR management was most helpful in answering all the questions and requested clarifications from the IRC members. The IRC wants to express their sincere thanks to the management for its extended efforts in making the evaluation process both informative and transparent.

Research Highlights

1-1. High resolution ARPES (BL-1, BL-9A, and laser PES)

Y.-J. Hao et al., “Gapless surface Dirac cone in antiferromagnetic topological insulator MnBi₂Te₄”, *Phys. Rev. X* **9, 041038 (2019).**

By using high-resolution angle resolved photoemission spectroscopy, a gapless Dirac cone at the (0001) surface of MnBi₂Te₄ has been observed inside the bulk band gap. Such an unexpected surface state remains unchanged across the bulk Néel temperature, and is even robust against severe surface degradation, indicating additional topological protection. These results unveil the experimental topological properties of MnBi₂Te₄, revealing that the intrinsic magnetic topological insulator hosts a rich platform to realize various topological phases by tuning the magnetic or structural configurations, and thus push forward the comprehensive understanding of magnetic topological materials.

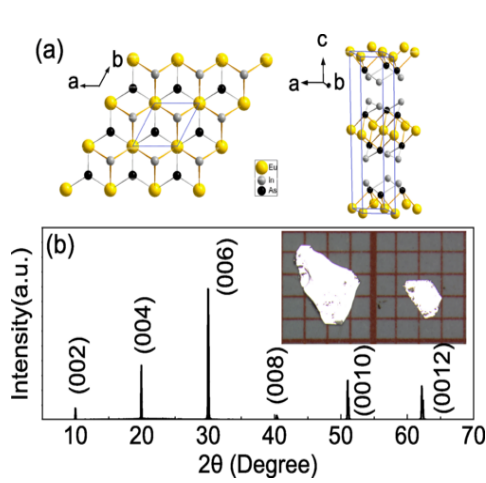


Surface and bulk electronic structure of MnBi₂Te₄. ARPES intensity plots are taken at $h\nu = 6.3$ eV, $T = 10$ K.

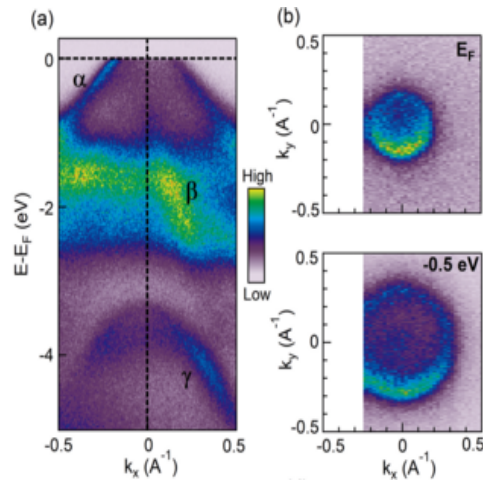
Y. Zhang et al., “In-plane antiferromagnetic moments and magnetic polaron in the axion topological insulator candidate EuIn₂As₂”, *Phys. Rev. B* **101, 205126 (2020).**

A systematic study of the axion topological insulator candidate EuIn₂As₂. A linear energy dispersion across the Fermi level reveals a hole-type Fermi pocket. The orientation of the magnetic moment for ground state is determined within the ab -plane by anisotropic magnetic behavior. Besides long-range antiferromagnetic order, magnetization and magnetotransport measurements indicate existence of the ferromagnetic orders and

ferromagnetic correlation, suggesting the formation of the magnetic polarons. These ferromagnetic clusters can persist above the antiferromagnetic transition leading to unconventional transport properties.



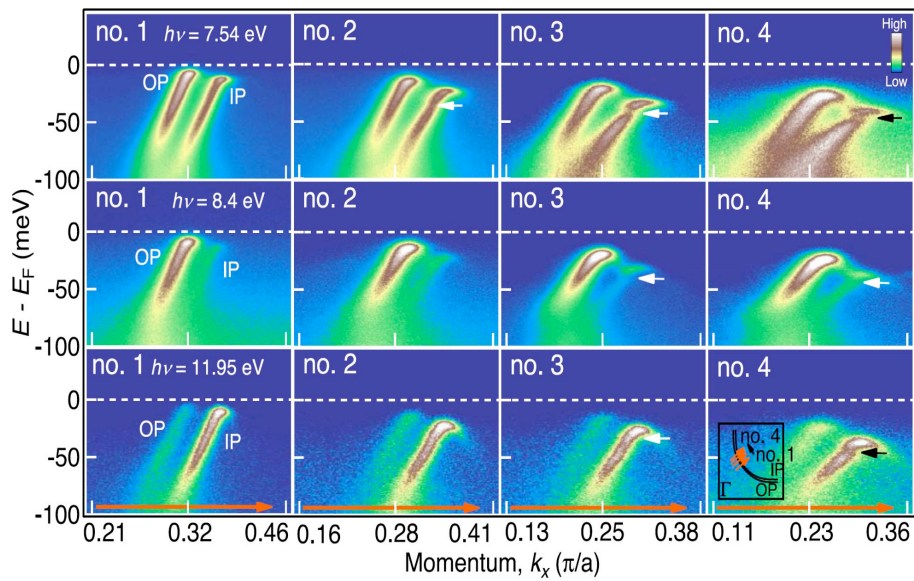
Crystal structure of EuIn_2As_2 .



Valence band structure along the K- Γ -K direction and Fermi surface map.

S. Ideta et al., “Hybridization of bogoliubov quasiparticles between adjacent CuO_2 layers in the triple-layer cuprate $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{10+\delta}$ studied by angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy”, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **127, 217004 (2021).**

Hybridization of Bogoliubov quasiparticles (BQPs) between the CuO_2 layers in the triple-layer cuprate high-temperature superconductor $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{10+\delta}$ is studied by angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES). In the superconducting state, an anticrossing gap opens between the outer- and inner-BQP bands, which we attribute primarily to interlayer single-particle hopping with possible contributions from interlayer Cooper pairing.

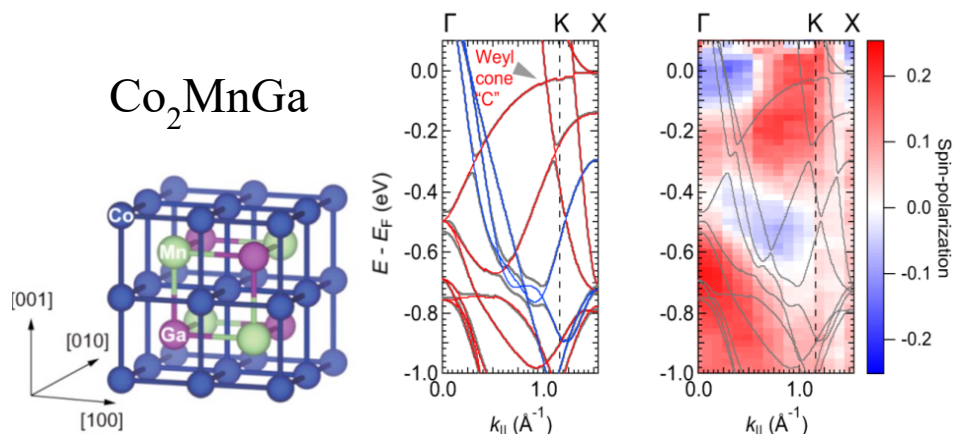


Momentum dependence of ARPES intensity plots taken at low photon energy in the triple-layer cuprate, $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{10+\delta}$.

1-2. Spin-resolved ARPES (BL-9B, and laser spin-ARPES)

K. Sumida et al., “Spin-polarized Weyl cones and giant anomalous Nernst effect in ferromagnetic Heusler films”, *Commun. Matter* 1, 89 (2020). [56 citations, Top 7%]

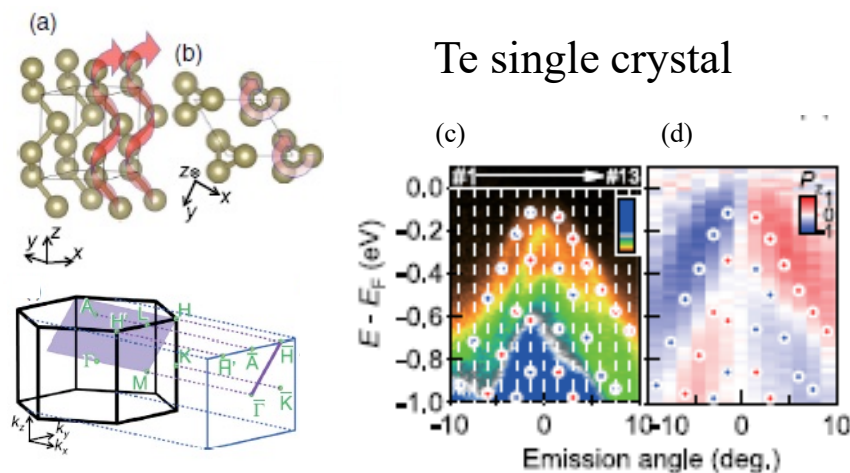
A Co_2MnGa Heusler alloy has been theoretically predicted to be a ferromagnetic Weyl semimetal and has been experimentally demonstrated in the bulk form to exhibit large anomalous transport properties under an external magnetic field. This research is the first observation of spin texture in the Heusler alloy and provided the reliable guiding principle to maximize the Nernst thermopower by the band engineering utilizing the SARPES, transport measurements, and ab initio calculations.



Crystal structure (Left), calculated band structure(middle) and the observed spin polarized map(right) of Co_2MnGa .

M. Sakano et al., “Radial Spin Texture in Elemental Tellurium with Chiral Crystal Structure”, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 124, 136404 (2020). [75 citations, Top3%]

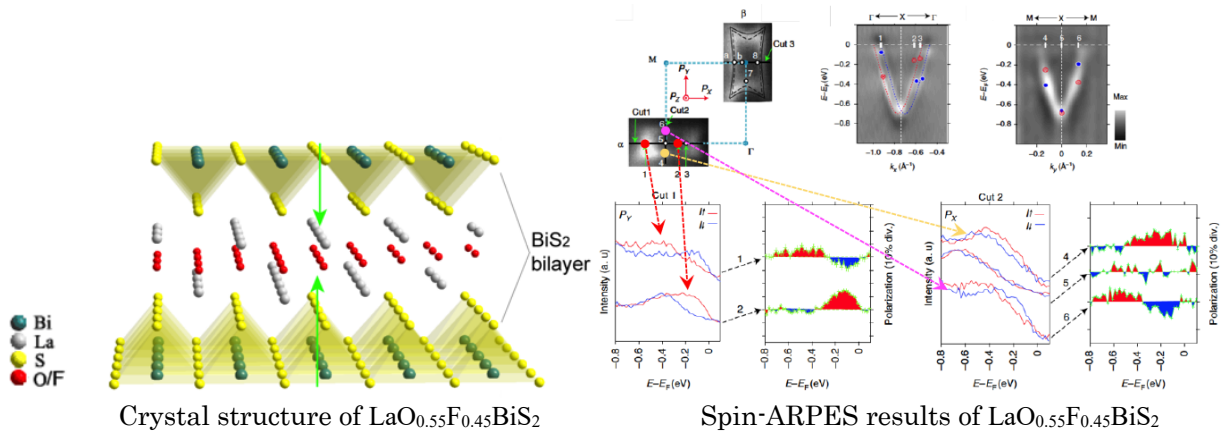
Several calculations studied on the nonmagnetic chiral materials have predicted that the peculiar spin texture should appear all around the highly symmetric k points, due to a lack of mirror symmetry and space inversion symmetry with a combination of spin-orbit interaction. This research clarified that the spin of chiral material Te exhibits a hedgehoglike texture, which leads to unconventional magnetoelectric effects, by spin- and angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy.



(a) (b) Left-handed chiral structure of Te. ARPES image and spin polarization near H in Brillouin zone for the left-handed crystal recorded at $h\nu=18\text{eV}$.

S. Wu et al., “Direct evidence of hidden local spin polarization in a centrosymmetric superconductor $\text{LaO}_{0.55}\text{F}_{0.45}\text{BiS}_2$ ” Nat. Commun.8, 1919 (2017). [51 citations]

Although it was believed that the Rashba (or Dresselhaus) effect is caused by the broken spatial inversion symmetry and strong spin-orbit interaction, it is predicted that there might be hidden spin-polarized electronic states even in the centrosymmetric materials by the local symmetry breaking (Zhang, X. et al. Nat. Phys. 10, 387–393 (2014).) This study reveals that such hidden spin-polarized electronic states exist in the newly discovered superconductor $\text{LaO}_{0.55}\text{F}_{0.45}\text{BiS}_2$, by using spin-resolved photoemission spectroscopy under surface -sensitive conditions.

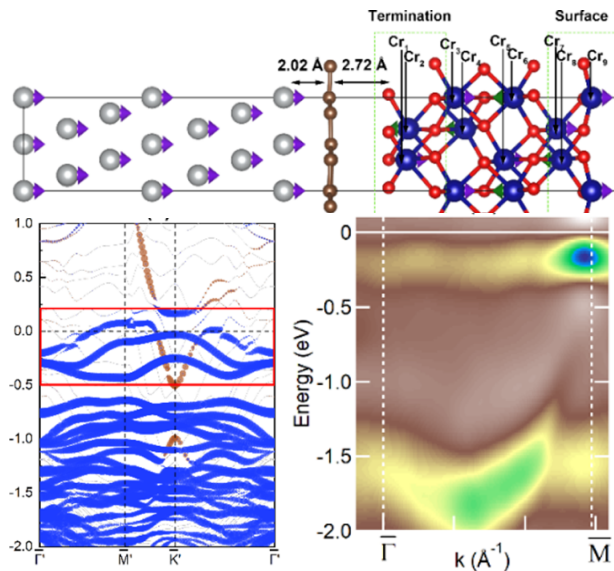


Crystal structure of $\text{LaO}_{0.55}\text{F}_{0.45}\text{BiS}_2$

Spin-ARPES results of $\text{LaO}_{0.55}\text{F}_{0.45}\text{BiS}_2$

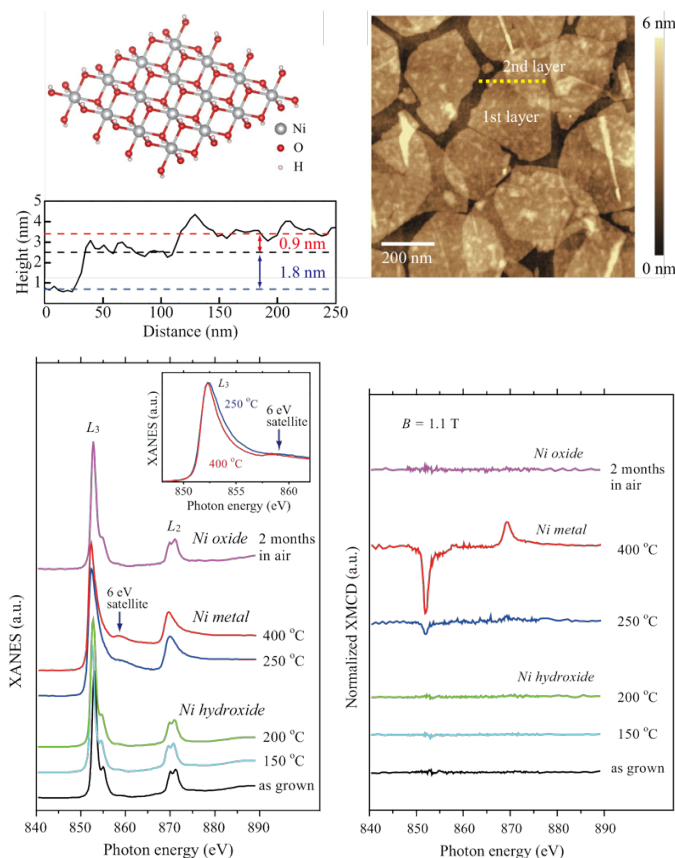
1-3. Nanomaterial analysis (BL-14)

X. Hou et al., “Observation of mid-gap states emerging in the O-terminated interface of Cr₂O₃/graphene: A combined study of ab initio prediction and photoemission analysis”, Appl. Surf. Sci. 594 (2022) 153416.



Interfacial electronic structure between graphene and Cr₂O₃ film was investigated, whose magnetic state is important for spintronic applications. The oxygen terminated type of the interface (top) was confirmed, where spin polarized mid-gap states originated from the spin-up Cr 3d_{z²} orbitals near the Fermi level were predicted in DFT calculation (bottom left) and experimentally confirmed by ARPES study (bottom right). The spin channels of the mid-gap states can be switched by changing the substrate magnetization direction.

Y. Naruo et al., “Ferromagnetic metal conversion directly from two-dimensional nickel hydroxide”, Nanotechnology 31 (2020) 435602.

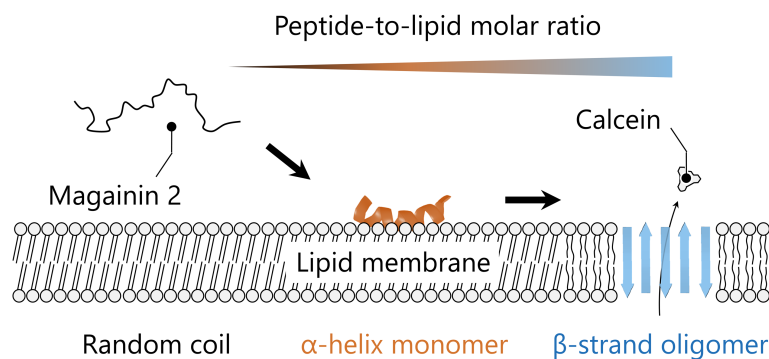


A direct metallic conversion from nickel hydroxide nanosheets to nickel metal nanostructures was found through thermal annealing process in vacuum. The metal transition of the single-layer nanosheets (top) deposited on a Si substrate was revealed by XAS. The XAS signal (bottom left) significantly changed at annealing temperatures above 250 °C, where corresponding ferromagnetic XMCD signals (bottom right) emerged from nonmagnetic state of nickel hydroxide. Atomic force microscopy measurements indicate that diffusions of nickel atoms on the substrates leads to a structural change from a 2D-like structure to a particle-like structure.

1-4. Circular dichroism of biomaterials (BL-12)

M. Kumashiro et al., “Formation of beta-strand oligomers of antimicrobial peptide magainin 2 contributes to disruption of phospholipid membrane”, *Membranes*, 12, 131 (2022).

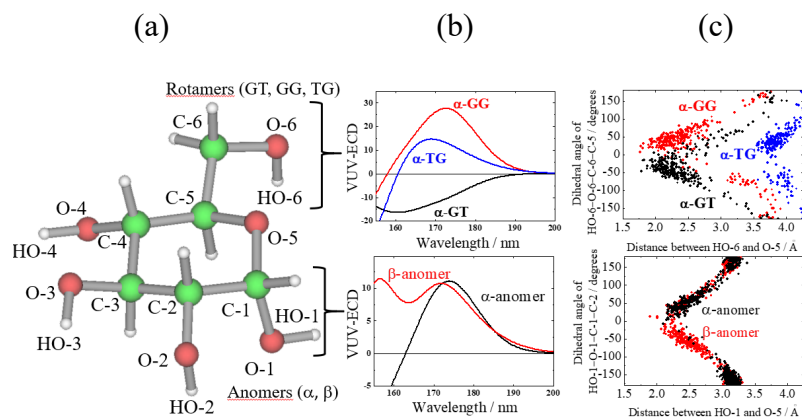
Antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) interact with and damage the cell membranes of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms. To gain new insights into AMP design strategies, we characterized the membrane interaction mechanism of the model AMP, magainin 2 (M2) using synchrotron-radiation circular dichroism, linear dichroism, and fluorescence spectroscopies. The results showed that α -helix monomers of M2 assembled and transformed into β -strand oligomers with increasing peptide-to-lipid molar ratio, destabilizing the membrane structure. Our findings suggest that the formation of β -strand oligomers of M2 contributes to the disruption of the cell membrane.



Disruption process of lipid membrane by formations of β -strand oligomers and of α -helix monomer of Magainin 2

K. Matsuo and K. Gekko, “Vacuum ultraviolet electronic circular dichroism study of D-glucose in aqueous solution”, *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*, 124, 642 (2020).

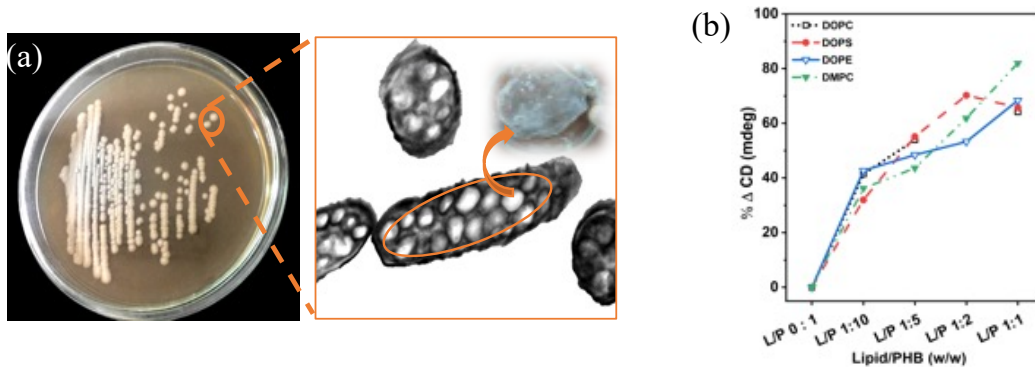
VUVCD exhibited unique spectra depending on the α -anomer and β -anomer configurations of the hydroxyl group at C-1, and the three gauche (G) and trans (T) rotamer conformations (GT, GG, and TG) of the hydroxymethyl group at C-5. These unique spectra could be ascribed to differences in the patterns of intramolecular hydrogen bonds around the hydroxymethyl group at C-5 for the three rotamers and around the hydroxyl group at C-1 for the two anomers. The strengths of these intramolecular interactions increased as the degree of hydration around the corresponding chromophores decreased, suggesting that hydration is a key factor for stabilizing rotamer and anomer structures.



(a) Chemical structure of D-glucose (b) Theoretical CD spectra of three rotamers of α -D-glucose and two anomers of D-glucose (c) Unique conformations and hydrogen network of each isomers.

M. E. Esmael, et al., “Lipid-membranes interaction, structural assessment, and sustainable production of polyhydroxyalkanoate by *Priestia filamentosa* AZU-A6 from sugarcane molasses”, *Int. J. Biol. Macromol.*, 242, 124721 (2023).

The study investigated the polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA)-lipid interactions via circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy and offered a sustainable PHA production approach employing a cost-effective microbial isolate, *Priestia filamentosa* AZU-A6. Characterization techniques including FTIR, NMR, GC-MS, DSC, and TGA techniques identified the biosynthesized PHA's as poly-3-hydroxybutyrate (PHB). On the other hand, CD observations suggested that chemistry of lipid molecules governs lipid-PHB interactions, potentially impacting PHB structuration.

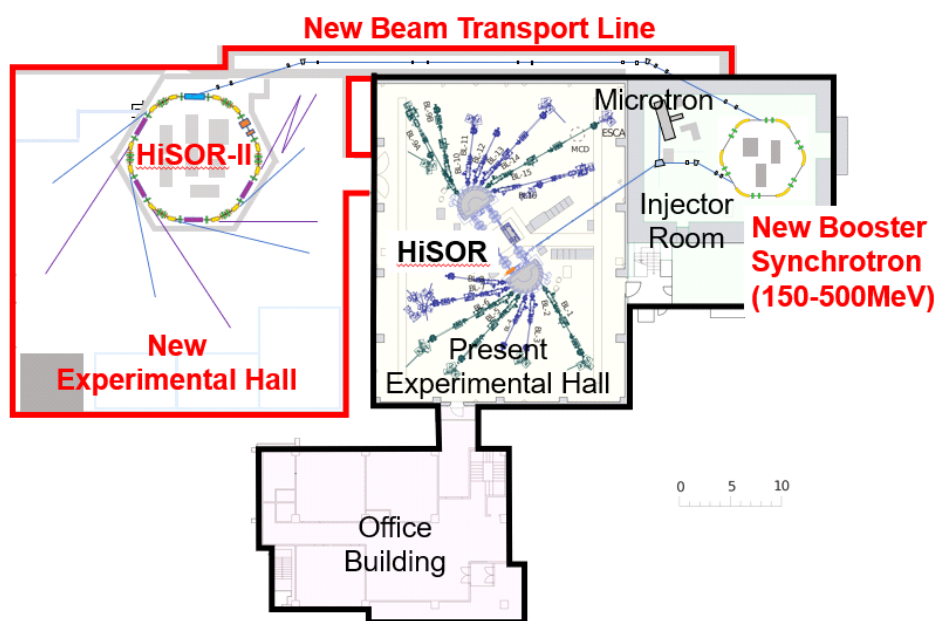


(a) Morphology of PHB pellets on cultivation plate and TEM produced by *P. filamentosa* AZU-A6; (b) PHB structuration affected by interacting with various lipid molecules using CD spectroscopy (DMPC:1,2-dimyristoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphocholine, DOPS:1,2-dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phospho-L-serine; DOPC:1,2-dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphocholine, and DOPE: 1,2-dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine).

1-5. Light source accelerators and insertion devices

Design work on HiSOR-II

We decided the target parameters of HiSOR-II such that the emittance is around 10 nm and the electron energy 500 MeV. With these parameters, HiSOR-II will give almost diffraction limited VUV light whose brightness is larger by almost two orders of magnitudes than that of the present HiSOR. HiSOR-II will be operated in the top-up injection mode. We are considering several options to be able to respond flexibly to future changes in the circumstances surrounding the facility. The circumference of the ring may be between 30m and 50m. The injector may be a newly constructed full energy booster synchrotron or the re-use of the present HiSOR as the booster. Sustainability will be the key concept of HiSOR-II. The hardware developments, such as permanent/electric hybrid magnets or new beam injection scheme with pulsed multipole magnets are in progress as collaborating with KEK Photon Factory, UVSOR and Nagoya University.



Layout of HiSOR-II Accelerator system.

Developments and Improvements on the present HiSOR

We continue the efforts on improving the performance of the present HiSOR. An example is the improvements on the undulator control system. In the first step, we made it possible to control the undulators from the beamline control system. However, because the improvement was realized based on the present accelerator control system, the time response is not sufficiently high and the orbit correction is not sufficiently precise as requested from the users. We are preparing a totally new system which is separated from the accelerator control system but accessible both from the accelerator control system and the beamline ones.

The aging issue of the accelerator components becomes serious year by year. To avoid a long shutdown caused by a hardware trouble, we are systematically updating the components in a prioritized manner. Currently, we are developing a new pulse magnet power supply which will utilize semiconductor switching devices instead of thyatron.

Research Areas

1-1. Electronic structure analysis (BL-1, BL-9A, laser PES)

Current Status

Angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) is the most direct and powerful tool to directly reveal the electronic states in solids, such as energy band dispersions, quasiparticle states, and Fermi surfaces. Since the initial stage of HiSOR, HiSOR has promoted high-resolution ARPES in the ultraviolet and soft-x-ray region at the undulator beamlines BL-9A ($h\nu = 6 - 40$ eV) and BL-1 ($h\nu = 26 - 300$ eV) and has been a world-leader in this field. In order to improve spatial resolution as well as energy and angular resolution, HiSOR introduced a laser beam with a spot size around $5 \mu\text{m}$ to a newly commissioned offline μ -Laser ARPES machine [H. Iwasawa *et al.*, *Ultramicroscopy* **182**, 85 (2017), 2023-17], which also rapidly became a world leader.

ARPES with low energy photons ($h\nu < \sim 10$ eV) is especially critical for if one wishes to maximize the bulk sensitivity, energy-resolution, and momentum resolution of an ARPES experiment. Good examples are studies examining many-body effects [2022-19] and the fine structure of momentum dependence of superconducting gaps [2021-18] in cuprates, as well as detailed examination of the Rashba splitting in the surface state on Re(0001) [2023-4]. A wide range of higher photon energies are essential to investigate the k_z (i.e. bulk) dispersion of electronic bands and matrix element effects, and distinguish surface-derived states from bulk states. A combination of the two photon energy ranges (low and high) allows for detailed spectral analysis by using BL-1 and BL-9A.

These days, topological materials such as topological insulators and Dirac/Weyl semimetal have attracted great interest, and many photon-energy-dependent ARPES measurements have been performed at BL-1 to reveal the three-dimensional electronic structure of these materials. In these cases, flat cleaving surfaces were often smaller than the previous beam spot size on the sample [300 (H) $\mu\text{m} \times 200$ (V) μm]. This in turn reduced the number of successful measurements on such systems due to the large number of cleaving attempts necessary to obtain a large enough surface, leading to a strong demand to reduce spot size on the sample.

In order to solve these problems, the HiSOR team has improved the spatial and energy resolutions. To decrease the beam size, they have installed ellipsoidal focusing mirrors (SIGRAY), successfully reduced the beam spot size down to 80 (H) $\mu\text{m} \times 45$ (V) μm ($50 \mu\text{m} \times 30 \mu\text{m}$ is expected to be possible in the near term). In addition, they have motorized the operation of the MF mirror for fine tuning. Consequently, they have successfully demonstrated the spatial mapping on the sample allowing much easier operation and higher ARPES fidelity. In addition, they have installed two new electron-energy analyzers with angle-deflecting optics that enable $\theta_x - \theta_y$ mapping at BL-1 (MBS A1) and BL-9A (SPECS ASTRAIOS 190 with wide detector angle). With these analyzers and beam focusing optics, they can fix the beam spot position on the sample and get Fermi surface mapping without moving the angles of the sample. These analyzers enable the users to obtain precise measurement with ~ 0.1 (deg) mapping. The energy resolution at BL-1 has reached around 4.5 meV at $h\nu = 25$ eV and 60 eV which is extremely good performance. The manipulators are controlled by an in-house LabVIEW software with arbitrary choices of mapping dimensions [H. Iwasawa *et al.*, *J. Synchrotron Rad.* **24**, 836 (2017).]. Now, one can automatically perform ARPES mappings using arbitrary combinations

of directions (polar, azimuth, tilt, x, y, z). In addition, the nano-stage has been installed on BL-1. By combination with the tens of micron-sized beam spot, it enables users to reproduce sample positions with the same ordered precision and perform detailed spatial mappings with high lateral resolution [2023-3].

As for BL-9A, using the ARPES system with variable polarized low energy photons ($h\nu = 6-40$ eV) provided by the APPLE-II undulator, users can investigate fine details of the electronic structure. Due to continued efforts to improve the beamline optics, and specifically the monochromator stability, photons with linewidths below 1 meV can be provided for energies below 10 eV [M. Arita *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **77**, 205117 (2008)]. HiSOR staff have also successfully focused the beam on the sample surface around $600 \mu\text{m}$ (H) \times 100 (V) μm , but in near future it is expected that the beam will be focused around $90 \mu\text{m}$ (H) \times 40 (V) μm using capillary microfocus optics. In addition, to improve the spatial resolution, they have upgraded the low-temperature 6 axes manipulator of BL-9A. This is a fully motorized high precision 6-axes goniometer (temperature range: 12-370 K, azimuth angle range: $\pm 90^\circ$, tilt angle range: -25° to $+50^\circ$) that enables the user to measure Fermi surface maps over a wide momentum range via tilt or azimuth rotations. They have also installed the new analyzer on BL-9A then one can fix the beam position on the sample and can do ARPES mapping without moving the orientation of the sample. The analyzer can be linked to an external PC for controlling external devices such as goniometer, enabling various automatic ARPES measurements. The high precision goniometer is also effective to measure band dispersions along high-symmetry lines for small Fermi surfaces located close to the Γ point of the surface Brillouin zone. Representative results obtained at BL-9A over the last 5 years include the elucidation of the mixing gap observed in the triple-layer cuprate superconductor, $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_{10+\delta}$ [2021-18], the observation of two dimensional anisotropic Dirac cone in a monolayer boron sheet [2018-4], the observation of Rashba-like spin splitting PtBi_2 [2019-8], and the acceleration of a metal-insulator transition in topological semimetal nanofilms [2021-16].

To perform various advanced experiments at the beamlines, sample preparation and characterization are also important. They connected a preparation chamber for non-cleaving samples at BL-1 and BL-9A that can characterize samples using LEED and Auger electron spectroscopy. For sample preparation, Ar ion sputtering and annealing (direct current as well as electron bombardment) can be performed [2022-2, 3]. A newly designed preparation chamber manipulator head allows for annealing temperatures higher than 2000 K with room for additional flashing of the sample. In addition, depending on the user's requirements, it is possible to install evaporators and gas doser if needed. At BL-1, the preparation chamber is independent from the main transfer route allowing for the measurement of cleaving samples while more demanding sample preparation can take place in the preparation chamber.

Starting in 2014, they have developed and commissioned the stand-alone μ -Laser ARPES machine at HiSOR [#1]. Within the first year they were able to achieve ultimate energy resolution (260 μeV deconvolved at 7.2 K with 0.75 meV and 1.5 meV resolution as common user choices during experiments) and open to the user community. Focusing on achieving ultimate angle as well as spatial resolution they upgraded the manipulator stage ("nano-stage") and replaced pinhole apertures used for reducing the spot size with focusing optics. This allowed them to achieve ultimate angle (undetectable Gaussian broadening at Lorentzian FWHM of 0.0033 \AA^{-1} in Bi-2212) and spatial resolution at the same time. They have installed an optical monitoring system (spatial resolution $\sim 14 \mu\text{m}$) for sample position adjustments. Based on the results from the μ -Laser ARPES system, they have found the linewidths of ARPES spectra can be drastically improved depending on the

measurement positions even for layered samples having a good cleavage plane and a seemingly well cleaved surface. In 2022, a joint research agreement was signed between HiSOR and QST (National Institute for Quantum Science and Technology), and the main chamber of μ -Laser ARPES was relocated to NanoTerasu, and the laser light source has been moved to BL-1.

So far, the μ -Laser ARPES system has been successfully used to investigate the evaluation of the electronic structure by doping an impurity into the antiferromagnetic material, $\text{Mn}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_4$ [2023-16], the observation of Dirac gap at the selected surface on the half-magnetic topological insulator with magnetization [2021-28], and other projects of topological materials with antiferromagnetism [2021-27, 29, 30, (16), 2022-13, 16, 19].

Evaluation

The rotation of the BL-1 main chamber around the light incidence allows for a unique setup where the degree of linear polarization remains at 100% all the time. Such a polarization dependent ARPES measurement enables users to disentangle multi-band system based on the dipole selection rule [2022-2]. Furthermore, this system has been proven useful to extract orbital textures by continuously rotating the incident electric-field vector with respect to the detection plane. The dramatically decreased beam spot size, new nano stage and new analyzer enables users to perform the most precise measurements. These developments also lead to save the measurement time, too.

The high-resolution variably polarized low-energy photons from the APPLE-II undulator at BL-9A, in combination with the available offline sources, provide an excellent environment to investigate fine details in the electronic structure near the Fermi level. The installation of the fully motorized 6-axes goniometer and the control software allows high-quality ARPES measurement in momentum space. In addition, the new analyzer with a wide detector angle (ultimately ± 30 deg, presently operating at ± 19 deg) enables users to cover significant ranges of k-space, which is more challenging at low photon-energy. The electrodes installed in the manipulator have been developed to do the operando measurement and this development leads to exciting opportunities for researchers from the field of application, such as devices.

The recently commissioned μ -Laser ARPES machine has proven to be a highly competitive setup and has gotten much attention from different groups inside and outside of Japan for its attractive combination of spatial, angular, and energy resolution.

Perspective

The experience gained from past and future upgrades of the three machines will be transferred to the beamlines of HiSOR-II. It is expected that orders of magnitude more efficient ARPES measurements and/or ARPES with improved spatial resolution of ~ 1 μm will be possible at the new synchrotron ring. At HiSOR-II, precise and detailed investigations of the electronic structure would be performed which are indispensable to further fundamental understanding of various transport and magnetic properties of solids.

Keeping in mind the current trend of community demands, as well as the future upgrade of the synchrotron radiation towards a low emittance source, it is important to focus on improvements shown below. To begin, based on the impressive results from the ARPES system of BL-1, it is of crucial importance to reduce the

spot size from its current size, ~ 50 (H) $\mu\text{m} \times \sim 40$ (V) μm , to at least below 20-30 μm to increase the surface selectivity as well as the angular resolution and maintain international competitiveness.

A future upgrade of such a deflector type analyzer to install a 3D VLEED-type spin detector should also be considered. This would lead to a unique endstation at BL-1, which enables users to perform various experiments in the high spatial and angular resolutions with the surface and k_z sensitive excitation energies, combined with the resolution of the spin (VLEED) and ultimate resolution of orbital textures. The latter is being possible by the rotatable analyzer system, which allows to keep 100% purity of polarization between p - and s -polarizations a feature setting apart BL-1 from other ARPES beamlines around the world.

At BL-9A the reduction of the beam spot-size is even more critical than at BL-1 since the present spot size at 9A is at present much worse and is far behind other beamlines around the worlds. A high magnification ellipsoidal mirror and spatial filter to the main chamber is the highest priority, which can reduce the beam size down to a more competitive scale of ~ 100 μm (H) $\times 40$ μm (V). This upgrade will allow the measurements of smaller domain samples or rough cleaved 3-dimensional sample surfaces, though still not near the state-of-the-art. Another demand from many users is the addition of an automated photon energy control system that changes the monochromator and undulator gap automatically. This, together with the 6-axes goniometer, would allow users to map the 3-dimensional momentum space in a convenient fashion.

Finally, to advance the capabilities to measure at low temperatures with very high energy, angular, and spatial resolutions, it is necessary to improve the design of the manipulator to reduce the residual magnetic fields in the chamber and improve the thermal radiation shields to reduce mechanical vibrations. To that end a low-vibration coupling to the cryo-shield should be installed and crucial parts of the manipulator exchanged with non-magnetic materials. In addition, the suggested plan to standardize the design of the transferred sample holder (Omicron type) for photoemission beamlines (BL-1, 7, BL-9A, 9B) is strongly encouraged.

In the present status, the μ -Laser ARPES machine is highly competitive and allows to produce state-of-the-art results. To stay ahead, it is recommended to extend its capability to access ultra-low temperatures ($T \sim 2$ -3 K) in order to improve the energy resolution. One of the options is an installation of a low-vibration cryo-shielded in combination with a new manipulator. It has been shown that such a setup can achieve temperatures below 3 K while retaining the rotational degrees of freedom [M. Hoesch *et al.*, Rev. Sci. Instrum. **88**, 013106 (2017)]. The laser source is now installed at BL-1, and the combination with the laser, synchrotron radiation, and the spin detector will open a new comprehensive study.

1-2. Spin structure analysis (BL-9B, laser spin-ARPES)

Current Status

This research division conducts research on quantum spin physical properties of materials by spin- and angle-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy. So far, the staff of HiSOR have developed and been improving spin- and angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (spin-resolved ARPES) endstation equipped with a very low energy electron diffraction (VLEED) type spin polarimeter. Since the efficiency of VLEED polarimeter is about 100 times higher than the conventional Mott spin detector, higher resolution measurement ($\Delta E \leq 10$

meV, $\Delta k = 1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ @ $h\nu = 21 \text{ eV}$) in shorter measurement time has been realized [T. Okuda *et al.*, Rev. Sci. Instrum. 87, 103302, (2011).]. By using two VLEED spin polarimeters, that were set orthogonally to each other, enable complete determination of three-dimensional spin vectors (S_x, S_y, S_z) [Okuda *et al.*, J. Electron Spectrosc. Relat. Phenom., 201 23 (2015).] Also, for accurate Fermi surface measurement, a high precision tunable temperature ($\sim 20 \text{ K}$ - 470 K) 6-axes goniometer is available. Recently, toward the spin-ARPES measurement in operando condition, the manipulator head was remodeled and the specially designed sample holder with multi-electrodes can be used now. In addition, for the experiment requiring very low temperature condition the other manipulator for low temperature measurement ($\sim 6 \text{ K}$) is also now available.

The endstation is located at one of the two undulator beamlines in HiSOR where any kinds of light polarization (left / right circular polarized / horizontal / vertical polarized) by the APPLE II type undulator is available. The available photon energy of the beamline is $h\nu = 16$ to 100 eV . (100 - 300 eV is also available but only for low energy resolution measurement) Although the beam size was relatively large, $3 \text{ mm (H)} \times 1 \text{ mm (V)}$, new capillary type spheroidal mirror was installed in 2020 and the beam size is reduced about 1/10 [$500 \text{ \mu m (H)} \times 100 \text{ \mu m (V)}$]. In addition, the x-y-z stage of the manipulator was also renewed to the high precision type with the positioning accuracy of about 1 \mu m .

To make experiments more user-friendly and convenient, the grating exchange and the change of the slits are motorized in 2023 as part of DX promotion that will be also helpful for the remote operating experiment from the outside of the facility.

In addition to the SR beamline BL-9B, a new spin-ARPES system using 6 eV Ti:S laser has been developed for the purposes of further expansion of collaborative research and the R&D of use of the 3rd generation light source in the future. Very high energy and momentum resolutions ($\Delta E \sim 5.5 \text{ meV}$ and $\Delta k \sim 0.009 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$) have been realized. By utilizing laser light, not only the improvement of energy and momentum resolution, but the small beam spot size can be realized which makes the research with micron size samples, samples with multiple domains and microscopic measurement are possible. As a result, microscopic measurements with $\sim 5 \text{ \mu m}$ spatial resolution are now available. For the ARPES measurement with high spatial resolution the electron analyzer with electron deflector (Scienta-Omicron DA-30) that enables to do Fermi surface mapping or angle resolved measurement without rotating samples, and the high precision x-y-z stage ($\sim 1 \text{ \mu m}$) with encoder with cryogenic manipulator ($\sim 10 \text{ K}$) are installed at the laser-SARPES station. In addition to the high energy, momentum and spatial resolutions, variable polarization properties of laser light must be also useful to study detailed polarization dependence in spin-ARPES measurement.

In addition to these spin-ARPES endstations, a multi-channel spin detector that can improve the efficiency of spin-detection more than 1000 times higher than the present system is now under construction. Although the magnetic deflector was initially adopted in the design, it was remodeled to a simpler style without using the magnetic deflector. In order to accelerate the development, we hired a new assistant professor for this project in 2023. In parallel, we are exploring new target materials for the spin detector which make it possible to detect out-of-plane spin polarization in the multichannel spin detector. As a potential target material FeCo film on Rh(001) surface is studied recently and the performance test is now in progress.

Because of the high performance of the end-station about 157 proposals (about half (71) of them is from

abroad) have been submitted in these 6 years and published 54 papers (13 Top 10 % or higher papers (24 % of total publications), 20 papers in high impact factor journals (37 % of total publications)). Some of the representative publications are follows.

The first experimental evidence of topological Kondo insulator on $\text{SmB}_6(111)$ surface [Nat. Commun. 10, 2298 (2019).30 citations], experimental evidence of the Weyl semimetal on the Heusler alloy Co_2MnGa [Commun. Mater. 1, 89 (2020). Top 7% papers, 50 citations], the first experimental evidence of hedge hog spin texture of chiral crystal Te, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 136404 (2020). Top 3% papers, 73 citations], the investigation of the surface state of MnBi_2Te_4 [Phys. Rev. X 10, 031013 (2020). 4% 71 citations] and so on (1 Top 1%, 1 Top 5% and 2 top 6% papers).

Evaluation

Equipped with a very-low-energy-electron-diffraction (VLEED) spin detector, that was developed in-house with an order-of-magnitude-higher efficiency than a conventional high-energy Mott spin detector, and elliptically-polarized undulator synchrotron radiation in a very efficient photon energy range, HiSOR has been one of the most active and competitive centers for spin-resolved ARPES (S-ARPES) research in the world. Its high-level activity has been well proved by the excellent publications during the last decade, which have made important contributions to the progress of the research on topological materials and 2D materials with an active spin degree of freedom.

In his talk Dr. Miyamoto gave a status report of this facility. The VLEED spin-resolved ARPES system has demonstrated an energy resolution of $\Delta E \leq 10$ meV, an angular resolution of 0.4° and the capability of 3D spin vector analysis, which are among the highest resolutions reached in spin-resolved ARPES in the world and enables precise spin-resolved measurements that require high energy and angular resolutions.

The versatile sample facilities permit the preparation of a variety of samples efficiently, which was updated with in-operando measurements and lower temperature measurements down to 6 K.

The system was further upgraded by reducing the beam size on the spot by 1/10 (500-micron scale) with a capillary mirror and equipped with high-precision x-y-z sample motion. This will be important for various exfoliated 2D materials and in-operando measurements.

The IRC also heard about the construction of an extra off-line spin-ARPES system using 6-eV laser, which provide higher energy and momentum resolution in a different photon energy range. This system can provide a much higher spatial resolution of 5 micron. The IRC agree that this system is a powerful complement to the existing spin-ARPES beamline facility in various ways.

The IRC is impressed by the continued upgrade of the system and the continued production of high-level research results and publication by the internal group, domestic users and international users.

The IRC also find that the on-going development of the VLEED spin detector system utilizing multi-channel spin detector would be another important contribution of HiSOR to the world community when it is successfully constructed.

The scientific highlights of spin-ARPES beamline are impressive and competitive, covering updated topics such as ferromagnetic Weyl semimetals and chiral crystals. However, since the overall research activity for finding new topological materials is gradually shrinking world wide, a long-term strategy for spin-ARPES activity has to be reconsidered for the next phase.

Perspective

The recent boom in spintronics and topological insulators research is raising demands for spin-resolved ARPES measurements. Given the global scarcity of spin-resolved ARPES instruments in operation, HiSOR can help to meet the demand by operating both systems, i.e. systems at SR beamline and with a laser source, in its possession, and thus play a prominent role in this research field. The demand is especially high for spin-resolved ARPES measurements using high-brilliance energy tunable synchrotron radiation sources. Since the spin-polarized states on topological insulators are surface states, one can in principle observe the states with any photon energies. However, the spin-polarized states of Weyl semimetals, altermagnets etc. are located at the specific area in the 3D k-space. Therefore, not only high energy and angular resolutions but the possibility to tune the photon energy is crucial. Thus, although the new laser spin-ARPES system must be helpful the use of synchrotron radiation is essential if the characteristics of the high-resolution spin-ARPES systems are to be exploited to the fullest extent. Currently, companies like VG Scienta and SPECS are bringing commercial instruments on the market, but the development of the VLEED type spin detector and also multichannel spin detector at HiSOR will keep this facility ahead of the field.

Staff at HiSOR have long-term experience with designing and operating spin-resolved photoemission experiments, the institution is thus in an excellent position to develop a "multichannel spin detector". This would represent one of the world's most ingenious measurement systems for spin-resolved ARPES to dramatically enhance the energy and angle resolution, and potentially to introduce the possibility of ultrafast temporal resolution.

It is strongly desired that HiSOR engages in all these efforts in the future to enhance its capabilities and create the world's finest environment for the most advanced spin-resolved ARPES experiments, make synchrotron radiation available at any time, and provide a stable supply of user beam time. However, ultimately, the 28-year-old synchrotron radiation source itself must be upgraded in the near future. In addition to the problem of the shortage of beam time, it is desirable to be able to use a more focused, high-quality synchrotron radiation beam in order to fully utilize the world's highest-level spin ARPES technology cultivated at HiSOR.

1-3. Nanomaterial analysis (BL-14)

Current Status

The beamline BL-14 has been utilized for several types of absorption spectroscopy experiments in a soft X-ray region between 400 and 1200eV, including the main technique of soft X-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD) measurements. The targets of the XMCD experiments are magnetic nanostructured materials grown on kinds of substrates, whose samples are fabricated by epitaxial method. The XMCD experimental system consists of an XMCD measurement chamber and a suite of interconnected UHV chambers for the in-situ sample fabrication and analyses (LEED, AES, STM). In the sample fabrication, magnetic ultrathin films and

multilayers are monoatomically grown with sub-monolayer precision, using real-time RHEED oscillation monitoring. Fabricated magnetic nanostructures are quickly transferred into the measurement chamber in the beamline, and their native magnetic properties are investigated without influence of oxidation or surface pollution. The XMCD measurements are carried out with circularly polarized component ($P_c = 0.7$) of SR beams in total electron method, where a set of permanent magnets (1.1 T) and an electromagnet (0.3 T) are available for magnetizing samples, and the temperature range is between liquid nitrogen and room temperature.

Recently, the group members of BL-14 have started development of a soft X-ray reflectometer that is compatible with low vacuum or He atmospheric environment, aims at magnetic and structural evaluation for practical multilayers and films. Assembling of the reflectometer and control tests of a motorized θ -2 θ goniometer have been finished. Successful installation of the apparatus to BL-14 has been achieved with good compatibility between vacuum separation and influx of soft X-ray from UHV beamline, by utilizing silicon nitride membrane.

Another upgrade project under development is a compact sample fabrication system that has portability among beamlines in HiSOR facility. The movable system is expected to enhance joint projects with multiple experimental methods across the beamlines, changing the current situation that only XAS/XMCD is available for nanomaterial samples fabricated locally at BL-14.

The members of BL-14 have also made a strong effort at computational method aids material studies at SR beamlines. Successful work on spintronic interfaces was achieved based on combination study between beamline experiments and first-principle electronic structure calculations for ultrathin magnetic multilayers. At present, they are trying computational analysis on interlayer magnetic interaction observed in ultrathin structures of ferromagnetic tunnel junction.

Evaluation

The status and performance of the soft x-ray bending magnet beamline BL14 and the XMCD endstation has been presented at HISOR symposium. The talk by Dr. Masahiro Sawada talk (BL14 staff), and the additional user presentation by Dr. Naoyuki Maejima (from Rikkyo University and Institute of Molecular Science presentation) highlighted the use of XAS and XMCD approaches on the investigation of hybrid 2D/FM interfaces and NixP/Fe2P bilayers, evidencing excellent performance and the capability to complete cutting edge nanomagnetism studies. In the light of the publication and proposal record provided over the last 5 years (2018-2023), the beamline and XMCD endstation have sucesfully accomplished remarkable results over the the period, with around 10-15 manuscripts in good quality peer review journals (plus some recent excellent results pending publication in judgment of the results shown in the 28th HiSOR meeting).

Taking into account the limited operation of the facility and of the endstation (around 5 experiments per year), the covid shutdown and the very limited staffing (essentially one permanent scientist, Dr. Masahiro Sawada, and intermittently one young researcher PhD or postdoc), the results achieved and their quality deserve compliments. The provided documentation also demonstrates the endstation has provided service to a broad internal and external community, including various researchers and young studends at Hiroshima University; external users in Japan (CEMS/Riken center, Ritsumeikan University, Rikkyo University, Kumamoto

University), and overseas research institutions like IOFFE institute in Russia, or the Indian Institute of Technology in India.

Besides, a novel endstation for soft x-ray reflectometry is under installation and appears to be large progress and almost ready for commissioning (no measurements were yet shown). This effort is commendable and well received: such an instrument enables complementary approaches to the XAS, XMCD techniques and broadens the beamline usage, offering novel opportunities and widens the portfolio of techniques at the service of the HiSOR community. Additionally, work has been done in setting-up a MBE portable set-up that can be docked at various endstations at HiSOR facility. Again, this is remarkable work and should open novel opportunities for studies at for example ARPES instruments, and/or multimodal studies combining x-ray experiments at more than one instrument, in example XMCD and ARPES.

Looking back at the recommendations already made by the International Review Committee back in 2018 (see related 2018 report), one finds: i) extension of the cryogenic temperatures below liquid nitrogen (i.e. liquid Helium); ii) implementation of a larger (high) field magnet, either a superconducting magnet or a high field magnet; iii) addition of a fluorescence sensor for measurements on insulating samples. Such recommendations still apply now in 2024, and will be the highest priority recommendations. Taking into account eventual budget limitations and the present situation with liquid Helium (unless HiSOR has a secured liquid Helium supply), we refine in the following those recommendations, to hopefully increase the likelihood that some of them could actually happen within the next upgrade. Furthermore, in an investment is done onto a higher performance synchrotron source, this would only make sense if this is leveraged with corresponding enhanced endstations, in particular the XMCD endstation, but also possibly the reflectometry endstation.

Regarding working at liquid Helium temperatures, i.e. 4 Kelvin, cryogen-free solutions have evolved notably in the last years and have a cost that can be quickly recovered from savings in liquid Helium, whose price (in Europe at least) has increased by a factor of $\times 3$ or more, and where not only the price but just having a guaranteed supply is a problem. Among those solutions, two types might be worth evaluating: a) cold gas recirculation solutions (such as the *stinger* solution from Coldedge company), in which a close cycle circulation of Helium gas goes through a cryocooler head (typically a GM type with significant vibration and a 4K stage), and then compressed to high pressure and circulated through a kind of helium transfer line onto the cryostat coldfinger, and then is collected by an outer shield on the line back to the compressor for heat dissipation. Such a solution might have a vibration signature, but the transfer line makes for some decoupling; b) a recondensing setup (for example those offered by Janis company, now Lakeshore), where liquid Helium is used but the gas coming out of the cryostat go onto a Dewar recipient equipped with cryocooler heads in order to recondense the gas back to liquid). Such system might present less vibration issues. Such cryocooler systems (typically Sumitomo) have a 14,000 to 20,000 hours maintenance and besides electricity cost are very robust and efficient.

In what respect to enhancing magnetic field capabilities, there are some relevant remarks that appear relevant to complete previous suggestions: presently BL14 is a bending magnet and has not implemented a capability to switch the x-ray polarization. This is very important to keep on mind. This is “solved” because a relatively fast switching of the magnetic field (0.3T) in few seconds (5secs) is possible with the current electromagnet.

With this in mind, it is clear that a high field SC electromagnet, with typically say 6T and a 2T/min ramp (as such used nowadays at XMCD beamlines in ALBA, Diamond, SLS or Soleil) will make XMCD very inefficient. However, an electromagnet with an extremely fast ramp seems advantageous: a 2T electromagnet fed by a 200 Amps/s or 400 Amps/s power supply can switch magnetic field in 1 to 2 seconds. This would match a XAS, XMCD measurement in which because the low flux of the bending magnet, one is integrating a few seconds per point at a given photon energy, switching the field, then measuring the next energy, and so on, i.e. measuring spectra on a “step by step” motion with field switching at every step. Such an electromagnet and power supply may range on the 100,000 USD range (see for example GMW company solutions, Lakeshore or Caylar solutions), and would be very similar but significantly higher performance than the current electromagnet.

Still, considering options for polarization switching is worthy. It is maybe interesting to mention that in various facilities (ALS, ALBA, maybe others) there are tests exploring the possibility to insert special devices to change the trajectories of the electron beam in order to obtain very fast modulation of the x-ray polarization at a bending magnet. A more classical approach used in various full field soft x-ray transmission microscopes (ALS, ALBA) is to have a movable slit on the source to select photons emitted above or below the dipole plane to have positive or negative x-ray helicities; an equivalent but different solution is implemented in BESSY where a mirror is moved in order to let photons emitted above or below plane to pass through a slit downstream. In the event of an upgrade of the machine, the possibility for the XMCD endstation to be placed at an undulator should be considered.

Now regarding the recommendation of a fluorescence detector, it is worth discussing briefly some of the options: a good and inexpensive option is a photodiode (could be a Si or GaAsP photodiode with relatively good radiation resistance and low dark current, and a good area) or avalanche photodiode or a channeltron, which should be placed as close as possible to the sample. Simple and low-cost diodes from Hamamatsu work reasonably well (a thin foil to avoid electrons might be taken into consideration). A more fancy and costly option is a Silicon drift detector (Rayspec, Vortex, others) which will enable partial fluorescence yield as it has a certain energy resolution (around 125 eVs).

Besides that, there are other detection schemes that do not seem implemented and maybe equally or even better than fluorescence when possible: transmission and x-ray excited luminescence (which is essentially a transmission like approach). A simple diode collecting transmitted light, or the optical light excited by x-rays on luminescent substrates (sapphire, MgO, ...many other oxide substrates) enable detection modes that are bulk sensitive (hence complementary to TEY), and that address the issues of insulating samples with fluctuating backgrounds or operando experiments with applied currents or voltages where leakage onto the TEY detection introduces noise.

It is too early to provide recommendations on the soft x-ray reflectometry endstation, but addition for a 2D detector (CCD, sCMOS) enabling off-plane resonant scattering (transmission, gisaxs, but in soft x ray range even grazing angle is not so relevant or interesting) is worth starting to think about. This would become even more relevant if HiSOR is updated to a synchrotron source with enhanced coherence.

A last advice if HiSOR wants to increase the productivity of the beamline and XMCD endstation, which will

be even more relevant in the context of an eventual machine upgrade is to increase beamline staff, and balance properly faster turnover experiments with more complex experiments. If internal budget does not allow, this should be explored by fostering participation of scientist on national research grants as PI, in collaboration with other researchers, in order to have shared PhDs and postdocs. This if properly articulated, could and should be a career step forward for the beamline scientist. In this context, 2D materials could be a strategic opportunity for XAS, XMCD studies: the ARPES instruments are already working on bidimensional materials at the forefront of research in van der Waals and magnetic topological, Dirac materials, so an enhanced XMCD endstation could prove very interesting and complementary to the relevant on-going ARPES work. This could help boost the impact factor of BL14 publications as well. A beamline attached or moveable glove box, to allow experiments in air sensitive few layer vdW materials (bulk materials can be cleaved in-situ) might be also worth considering, either at the level of BL14 or movable between HiSOR instruments.

The beamline upgrades should take into account the possibility of an updated HiSOR machine, so any significant investment of money and resources is also useful and well adapted to such eventual novel scenario and the corresponding beamline or endstations conditions (which may differ from present).

Perspective

The concept to build end-stations at SR beamlines to achieve sample synthesis and fine analysis simultaneously, is one of the important ideas for material science, which is followed by the continuous efforts at BL-14 in the limited research field of magnetic nanostructures. The specialized studies should be continued if they are aimed at technological applications or something scientifically significant. However, efforts to exploit potential needs are also important, even if the old beamline has several limitations of beam quality. Wide range control of experimental conditions corresponds to broaden scientific scope, easy-to-use environment for users apart from SR community, and diversification strategy are recommended. Expansion of temperature and magnetic field range may be a pressing issue for the XMCD system, and user-friendly measurement with automatization may be effective for SR beginners. Advancement of multiple uses of soft X-ray beam at BL-14 and multiple measurements beyond the beamline should steadily be considered positively.

1-4. Circular dichroism of biomaterials (BL-12)

Current status

Circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy is capable of measuring the difference in absorption of left- and right-circularly polarized light, making it a valuable tool for analyzing the structural characteristics of molecules such as natural products, proteins, polysaccharides, and nucleic acids. By combining CD data with other experimental and theoretical techniques, a more comprehensive understanding of structures, properties, and functions of molecules can be achieved. However, the conventional CD is limited to the far-UV and near-UV regions, restricting its usefulness. The vacuum-ultraviolet (VUV) region, which extends below 190 nm, can be more sensitivity covered when using a synchrotron radiation (SR) as a high intense light source. Hence, the utilization of SR light source has enhanced the usefulness of CD spectroscopy by extending the wavelength region of CD the spectrum into the VUV region and enabling precise CD measurements. This advancement has allowed researchers to uncover new and detailed structural insights, such as the steric

structures of large biomolecules like proteins and polysaccharides, and the absolute configuration of natural products with high-energy chromophores such as hydroxy group, acetal bond, and allene moiety.

VUVCD is particularly effective in determining the secondary structure of biomolecules, such as α -helices and β -strands in proteins. It is well-suited for various types of biomolecules with high molecular weight, temperature-dependent studies, and studies in different solvent conditions, including those involving membranes. Therefore, it can be used in conjunction with other structural biology techniques such as X-ray crystallography, small angle X-ray scattering, and NMR spectroscopy.

In 1997, a vacuum-ultraviolet circular dichroism (VUVCD) spectrophotometer was constructed at BL-15 at the Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center (HiSOR) using a small-scale SR source (0.7 GeV). This spectrophotometer enabled the measurement of CD spectra in the range of 310-140 nm and has been successfully applied in the structural analyses of various biomolecules. Subsequently, the spectrophotometer was relocated to BL-12 with a Wadsworth normal incident monochromator, providing a photon flux of photons/sec, thereby enhancing the precision and speed of CD measurements.

Through continuous upgrades in measurement and analytical techniques, as well as collaborative research efforts with scientists worldwide, HiSOR has played a pivotal role in VUVCD-based structural analyses of biomolecules. Internationally, VUVCD or SRCD beamlines are operated in notable SR facilities such as the Aarhus Storage Ring (ISA) in Denmark, Diamond Light Source in the United Kingdom, Brazilian Synchrotron Light Laboratory (LNLS) in Brazil, and Synchrotron SOLEIL in France.

The HiSOR VUVCD spectrophotometer utilizes an optical system, consisting of a combination of polarizer and photo-elastic modulator to generate left- and right-circular polarization at 50 kHz, a detection system with two photomultipliers, and signal processing system with a lock-in amplifier. A variable temperature system, equipped with a peltier element, enables the measurement of CD spectra of biomolecules within the temperature range of -20 to 100°C with an accuracy of $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$. This temperature control system underwent upgrades based on feedback from international committee reviewers of HiSOR which was held in March 2018.

Additionally, a Schwarzschild focus mirror was installed to reduce the size of the SR light, enabling a significant reduction in sample volume for measurements. This enhancement facilitates the analysis of rare samples, such as proteins from human cells. The focusing system was further extended to high throughput measurements using a multiplate optical cell, which can accommodate 16 different samples simultaneously.

Another significant upgrade was the development of a time-resolved measurement (TR) system, employing a microfluidic mixing device dedicated to the dynamic observation of protein structures during membrane interaction. This device, integrated into the VUVCD instrument, allows for the determination of kinetic parameters and identification of intermediates in membrane interaction processes involving membrane-bound proteins. The TR technology developed serves as a convenient tool for obtaining various dynamic parameters related to the dependence of lipid / protein ratio, types of bio-membranes, temperature, and pH, which are crucial for elucidating the expression mechanism of biological functions of various membrane-bound proteins.

Furthermore, efforts are underway to develop a vertical CD device with microscopic functions to enable structural research of biomolecules in solid and semi-solid states. SR light is directed vertically by the MgF₂ coated Al mirror set up between the VUVCD instrument and BL-12, where it is converted into left- and right-circularly polarized light by a combination of polarizer and photo-elastic modulator. The modulated light passes through the sample after the condensing lens, and reaches the detector. By controlling the sample position with an automatic XY stage, microscopic CD measurements become feasible. Presently, this vertical CD instrument is applicable only to samples in the liquid state, but system for measuring solid and semi-solid states is under construction.

Evaluation

BL-12 represented by Dr. Koichi Matsuo has been and still is proof of a well functioning beamline. The field of interest includes the biophysical and structural biology. BL-12 offers a continuous operation during the working hours, allowing circular (CD) and linear (LD) dichroism as well as absorption spectroscopy. The vacuum-ultraviolet (VUV) CD spectrophotometer at BL-12 extends the CD spectra to the VUV region down to 170 nm for aqueous solutions and to 140nm for films. Low noise, low sample consumption (microliter range) and quick data acquisition provide structural information, which is unattainable with conventional CD instruments. Applications include membrane proteins, saccharides, nucleotides and disordered protein structure analysis, as well as protein-protein interactions, protein-nucleotide interactions and protein lipid interactions. Other activities of great value complementing these spectroscopic measurements are principal component analysis, neural networks, molecular dynamics and bioinformatics. (Peer reviewed publications and citation numbers, are proof of reliability)

The group of Dr. K. Matsuo has been joined by a Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim (assistant professor), who has been a real asset considering that he has already published! Also, like previously (2018) stated, the recruitment and of new beamline-staff increases the possibilities for exploring the beamline as well as accommodating and helping users and recruiting students more efficiently. I have been impressed by the present output 17 papers and usage of the VUV-CD. Keeping in mind that there has certainly been an interruption during the COVID pandemic and its restrictions.

Developments in place such as the vertical acquisition dispositive including a Schwartzschild focusing lens, microfluidic devices controlling the protein membrane dynamics (time resolved), as well as multi well plate reading and last but not least a Cuvette flow cell for analysis of macromolecular orientation within liquid samples are new methodologies and devices, which add up to the existing equipment such as the sublimation chamber, for thin film preparations of organic chiral molecules, and microfluidic continuous flow and stopped flow set-ups. Also the installation of an IR spectrometer in the laboratory using the attenuated total reflection (ATR) and Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy as sampling techniques, allows investigations of samples in either solid or liquid state which are spectroscopies very much complementary to the VUVCD.

The installation of an automated temperature stepping mode (-20°C to 100°C) for CD and absorption spectroscopy is now in place and allows access to thermodynamics and thermal-stabilities assays of biological macromolecules in solution. Further developments which have been discussed with the beamline staff include the development and implementation of a dedicated linear dichroism.

The latest addition of the ChiroPoly Probe system for real-time monitoring of CD signals from free radical polymerisation processes will be a great asset also to attract scientist from chemistry backgrounds in addition to life scientists.

The committee strongly supports the investigations into these novel developments to pave the way for a new HISOR light source. VUVCD will be an essential part of the new beamlines in the potential upgrade to HISOR-II and I strongly encourage the management to sustain financial support as well as keeping and maintaining the staff of one beamline manager one beamline scientist and one post-doc in addition to 2-3 PhD students. I would also like to recommend the application to a higher funding body in Europe and Japan to support international exchanges with other CD beamlines in Europe (ISA, DIAMOND, SOLEIL) and the novel LNLS in Brasil. Exchange of students, validation of procedures for calibration as well as scientific exploits, such as the construction of an international reference dataset for biomacromolecules should be covered by a solid long-term grant.

In a conclusion, important improvements over the past 6 years have been made. BL-12 remains and is a very productive tool for structural biology, glyco-biology and in a more general way for chiral macro-molecular studies where other techniques fail due to size of the molecules or their complicated flexible.

Perspective

The HiSOR VUVCD has contributed significantly to the structural analysis of biomolecules and implemented a unique experimental and computational system, resulting in an increase in the usage of external users. To sustain the attractiveness of this unique instrument in the chiral research fields, ongoing enhancements to the existing instrument are crucial, and continuous efforts should be dedicated to the advancement of a next-generation VUVCD device.

At HiSOR-VUVCD, three projects are currently underway. Firstly, there an ongoing project to improve vertical CD spectroscopy, enabling the structural analysis of biomolecules in solid and semi-solid samples. Secondly, there is the development of a new beamline which dedicated to measurement linear dichroism spectra of oriented biomolecules using the Couette flow cell, which is suitable for small sample volumes. Thirdly, there is the development of a new ChiroPoly Probe system for real-time monitoring of free radical polymerization using VUVCD technology. Meanwhile, dedicated staff are indispensable for user support, equipment improvement, and outreach activities, ensuring a stable operating environment.

The VUVCD beamline holds significant value for both the HiSOR and life sciences communities, playing a crucial role in fulfilling the objectives of the "Joint Usage/Research Center" and facilitating structural analyses of biomolecules. Plans for continuous improvements to the existing beamline and the development of a next-generation VUVCD instrument are essential for meeting the important requests of domestic and international users, thus maintaining a pivotal role in the life sciences at HiSOR.

1-5. Light source accelerators and insertion devices

Current Status

The light source accelerator system at the Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center (HSRC) consists of a 150 MeV injector microtron, a beam transport line, and a racetrack type storage ring. This system is called HiSOR (Hiroshima Synchrotron Orbital Radiation). The circumference of this ring is 22 m, and the bending radius is 0.87 m in the normal conducting bending magnet with high magnetic field of 2.7 T. Stored electron beam energy is 700 MeV, and synchrotron radiation having the critical energy of 873 eV from two 180-degree bending magnets can be extracted through 14 photon beam ports. There are two straight sections in the ring and two undulators are installed there. One is a linear undulator (2.4 m long, 57 mm period). Another is the variable polarization undulator (1.8 m long, 78 mm period). They provide high brightness VUV radiation to the photoelectron spectroscopy beamlines.

HiSOR has been successfully operated since 1996. Operation hours exceed 2,000 hours in each year, and users' operation hours are about 1,600 hours. The machine is running 11 hours a day (with 2 injections) and 4 days a week. Monday is reserved for machine tunings, machine studies and maintenances. The machine startup in the morning takes 30 minutes. It is almost possible to make a turn-key operation for normal use. The beam is about 350 mA just after the energy ramping and about almost a half just before the re-injection. Although the 24-hour operation has been requested from users, it is difficult to realize it due to the lack of manpower.

During the previous evaluation in the early 2010s, we reported a significant issue regarding the leakage of cooling water from the synchrotron radiation absorbers into the ultra-high vacuum chamber in the dipole magnets. Unfortunately, this issue has recurred this year, approximately 10 years later. The absorber was temporally repaired to recover the accelerator as soon as possible. It should be replaced with new one, whose mechanical design would be reconsidered, in the nearest future.

We evaluated the necessity and urgency of the aging-related issues of the accelerator components, and are replacing those one by one. We are currently promoting the replacement of the pulsed electromagnet power supply for beam injection, which would utilize semiconductor devices instead of a cyclotron for the switching element. The replacement would be in the summer of 2025.

The control systems of the undulators are being upgraded. In FY2023, it was improved within the existing accelerator control system framework, so that they could be controlled from the beamline control system. However, the response speed is not sufficiently high as requested by the users. In addition, the accuracy of the closed orbit correction is not sufficiently high and the experiments in the other beamlines are perturbed. To address these issues, we are going to install a totally new control system which is equivalent to that used in UVSOR.

Since the upgrade of the present HiSOR storage ring is not realistic because it is designed so compact and has no redundancy to introduce new ideas or apparatus. Therefore, for the future plan, a new storage ring HiSOR-II has been designed. We are preparing several plans to flexibly adapt to the situations of the synchrotron radiation science in our country and also of Hiroshima university. The beam energy of HiSOR-II would be 500 MeV, which is appropriate to produce high brightness VUV radiation with a compact ring.

We have designed a ring with a circumference of approximately 50 m but also are designing a more compact one with a circumference below 40 m. Although construction of a full energy injector is included in the plan, we are also considering usage of the current HiSOR storage ring as a full-energy injector for HiSOR-II.

To prepare for future plans, we are conducting researches on new accelerator technologies, such as new injection scheme using pulse multipole magnets, accelerator control by machine learning and permanent-electric hybrid magnets. These development researches are being conducted in collaboration with KEK-PF, UVSOR, and Nagoya University. This year, the accelerator groups of KEK-PF, UVSOR, Nagoya University and HiSOR have initiated regular monthly information exchange meetings. The collaboration aims not only to advance joint developments of new technologies but also standardization of accelerator components and maintenance parts, all of which would be effective in the reductions of the cost and the manpower for operating and maintaining the present machine and for developing the future accelerators. HiSOR-II would be almost diffraction-limited VUV source. We continue researches on developing new light source technologies in collaboration with UVSOR. Graduate and undergraduate students join some of these development studies described above. A few of them are conducted under the support of KEK's Accelerator Science International Education Program (IINAS-NX).

Evaluation

The IRC (International Review Committee) is impressed by the performance of the HiSOR light source despite its age of 28 years and being operated by a very small accelerator group. Pursuing aging-related issues with high priority and updating the control system are measures which are highly appreciated. Replacement of the presently leaking copper absorber should also be considered for the other dipole as a preventive measure.

The Director of HiSOR explained future storage ring options with a circumference ranging from 40 to 50 m for a diffraction-limited new facility HiSOR-II with six straight sections. The IRC fully agrees that technical improvement of this already very optimized machine is hardly possible and stable operation is becoming more and more difficult, while the research opportunities in physics, chemistry and biology offered by HiSOR are indispensable. Given the time scale for designing, constructing and commissioning a new light source, the IRC strongly recommends that the Hiroshima University decides on future plans for HiSOR as soon as possible and forwards them to the MEXT level.

With the experience of Prof. Katoh and the collaboration with other institutes like KEK, UVSOR and Nagoya University, the design of a new machine is in very good hands. Novel and sustainable technologies like the use of multipole magnets for injection and permanent magnets for the storage ring are under evaluation. Furthermore, the use of superbends (i.e., superconducting magnets instead of conventional storage ring dipoles) is considered to reach shorter wavelengths. As cost-effective alternative, the use of short bending magnets like those, e.g., at the ESRF-EBS storage ring may be evaluated.

To be competitive with other modern facilities, full-energy injection with top-up operation is mandatory. Instead of a new booster synchrotron, the use of the present storage ring as full-energy injector is being considered. While this is a cost-effective option, it would exclude the possibility of using both facilities simultaneously. Also, the integration of extraction kicker elements may not be trivial and the ramping time

would be longer than for an optimized new synchrotron.

Generally, while keeping the budget for construction and operation of a new facility within reasonable limits, the design should be based on user demands and scientific output in order to obtain maybe not the least expensive but an economically optimized solution.

A two-step approach may be considered, (i) investment in a full-energy booster synchrotron for the present and future machine and (ii) funding of a new storage ring. A full-energy booster would shorten the injection time and enable top-up injection, very much favored by the users and adding to thermal stability of the machine. Technical challenges like the present 90-degree bend, which is not suitable for full-energy injection, should be investigated. Optimizing the injection efficiency and keeping the radiation background low during injection would be useful R&D in view of a future storage ring.

Investment in HiSOR-II pays best when that machine is used to full capacity. The present operation time of 1600 hours per year for users may suggest that the demand for such a light source is not very high. In order to avoid such an impression and as requested by the users, HiSOR should make an effort to operate for more hours. The IRC understands that operation time is limited by manpower, but (i) after a last injection in the evening, the machine could be left unattended and/or (ii) the machine could be operated by students with appropriate training, and/or (iii) R&D in automated operation without compromising safety standards should be pursued. These are options that have been successfully practiced at other light sources. Training students as operators has the positive side-effect that more students get interested in master/doctoral work at HiSOR.

If not already the case, HiSOR may apply for a graduate school or some other collaborative research program. In addition to funding of PhD positions and scientific progress, such an activity is prestigious, increases the visibility of the laboratory, and may be advantageous in view of applying for a new facility.

Not only the beamlines but also the accelerator physics group would profit from additional manpower, particularly when preparing a Conceptual Design Report to apply for a new machine. A sound concept for such a machine requires detailed simulations including nonlinear effects and a professional technical layout of accelerator components. The IRC recommends funding for one additional accelerator physicist and at least one more engineer or technician.

Perspective

Concerning the present HiSOR accelerator system, the drastic improvement of the specification is difficult owing to its structure. On the other hand, it is expected to keep the present performance as replacing the aged components systematically. It is even expected to improve the performances such as orbit stabilities or smooth undulator control from beamlines. However, to realize this, the employment of young technical staffs is desired strongly.

About the future plan, new technologies toward sustainability should be introduced. The collaborative R&D's with other facilities is effective and strongly recommended. To realize this, it seems important to promote personal exchanges among the facilities, including engineers. At the phase of making a detailed design, the procedures for the daily maintenance and the long-term operation must be considered.

Appendix

Number of students who earned master's and doctoral degrees using HiSOR

Year	Master degree	Doctoral degree (user from abroad)
2017	5	3 (3)
2018	7	3 (3)
2019	7	5 (4)
2020	5	4 (3)
2021	7	5 (5)
2022	8	7 (4)
2023	11	6 (3)
Total	50	33

Publication List (2017-2023)

**In the list, papers in italics are those that used multiple beamlines and have already been listed on other beamlines.*

2017

BL-1

- 1) S. Ishihara, K. Ichiki, K. Abe, T. Matsumoto, K. Mimura, H. Sato, M. Arita, E. F. Schwier, H. Iwasawa, K. Shimada, H. Namatame, M. Taniguchi, T. Zhuang, K. Hiraoka, H. Anzai, "The c-f hybridization effect in the subsurface region of YbInCu₄", J. Electron Spectrosc. Relat. Phenom. **220**, 66-68 (2017).: BL-1 / cite 9 / IF= 1.9
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BL-9A

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- 21BG036 Taichi Okuda : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
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- MnBi₂Se₄ and MnBi₂Te_{4-x}Se_x with the out-of-plane to in-plane transformation of the magnetic anisotropy
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- 21BG039 Nao Tsunoji : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
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- 21BG047 Akio Kimura : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
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- 21BU006 Kenta Kuroda : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
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- 21BU009 Tetsuji Sekitani : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
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- 21BU010 Naohisa Happo : Graduate School of Information Sciences, Hiroshima City University
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- 22AG023 Hiroaki Anzai : Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka Prefecture University
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- 22AG025 Shin-ichi Wada : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
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- 22AG033 Akari Takayama : Faculty of Science and Engineering, School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Waseda University
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Spin-resolved ARPES study on magnetic topological insulator Mn(Bi_{1-x}Sb_x)₂Te₄
- 22AG038 Chang Liu : Southern University of Science and Technology
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- 22AG039 Akio Kimura : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
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Topological surface states and carrier tuning in the loop-node superconductor $ZrP_{2-x}Se_x$
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- 22AU002 Shiv Kumar : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
High-resolution angle-resolved photoemission study of nodal line topological semimetal
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Unraveling molecular mechanism for protein quality control system
- 22AU004 Yasuyuki Matoba : Faculty of Pharmacy, Yasuda Women's University
YUVCD measurements of O-acetyl-L-homoserine sulfhydrylase from *Lactobacillus plantarum*
- 22AU005 Shiv Kumar : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
X-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD) study of magnetic topological materials
- 22AU006 Hitoshi Sato : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Laser ARPES on new 4f chiral magnet $YbNi_3Al_9$
- 22BG001 Tatsuhito Matsuo : National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology
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- 22BG002 Yuji Muraoka : Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Science, Okayama University
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- 22BG003 Susumu Mineoi : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
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Magnetic properties at the interface between hexagonal boron nitride and magnetic intercalated layers
- 22BG008 Masahiro Sawada : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Magnetic coupling between transition metal layers through monolayer hexagonal boron nitride
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Low-energy electronic structure analysis of transition metal chalcogenides with high thermoelectric performance
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XAS/XMCD measurements of anatase nanoparticles converted from titanium oxide nanosheets
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Spin Hall effect in Pt(001) probed by spin- and angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy
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- 22BG035 Fayuan Zhang : Shanghai Institute of Microsystem and information Technology, CAS
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Electronic relaxation dynamics depending on molecular conductivity probed by electron spectroscopy II
- 22BG045 Guodong Liu : Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
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- 22BU002 Shinya Hosokawa : Institute of Industrial Nanomaterials, Kumamoto University
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- 22BU004 Zhang Ke : University of Electronic Science and Technology of China
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- 22BU005 Yoshinori Okada : Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University
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- 22BU006 Naohisa Happo : Graduate School of Information Sciences, Hiroshima City University
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- 22BU012 Shinya Hosokawa : Institute of Industrial Nanomaterials, Kumamoto University
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- 23AG036 Taichi Okuda : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
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Topological electronic states induced by external perturbation (pressure and electric current)
- 23AG039 Jayita Nayak : Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Band structure investigation of RAIX (R: Ce, Pr, Nd, La; X: Si or Ge) semimetals
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Laser-spin-ARPES study of spin-polarized Fermi arcs in a Weyl semimetal superconductor
- 23AU003 Alexander Shikin : Saint-Petersburg state university
Study of modification of electronic structure of MnBi_2Te_4 under doping with low concentrations of Pb, Ge, Sn, Si depending on the temperature and polarization of laser radiation to analyze changes in their magnetic properties
- 23AU004 Masahiro Kobayashi : National Institute for Fusion Science
Circular dichroism analysis of molecular structure in amino acid specimen by vacuum-ultraviolet circularly-polarized light irradiation
- 23AU005 Tomohide Saio : Institute of Advanced Medical Sciences, Tokushima University
Molecular Mechanism of Chaperone Action Characterized by Time-Resolved Vacuum-Ultraviolet Circular Dichroism Spectroscopy
- 23AU006 Masato Sakano : School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo
Observation of characteristic spin texture in few-layer WTe_2
- 23AU007 Hitoshi Sato : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Laser ARPES on new 4f chiral magnet YbNi_3Al_9
- 23AU008 Ken Terao : Graduate School of Science, Osaka University
Destabilization mechanism of triple helical structure of collagen upon complexation with nanoparticles
- 23AU009 Alexander Shikin : Saint-Petersburg state university
Modification of electronic spin structure of MnBi_2Te_4 doped with Pb at different concentrations for analysis of interaction between topology and magnetism
- 23AU010 Pramod Bhatt : Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Mumbai India
Soft X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy (XAS) Study of Vanadium Hexacyanoferrate Based Open Framework Compound
- 23AU011 Jun Maruyama : Osaka Research Institute of Industrial Science and Technology

- Determination of chirality at nanopore arrangement in needle-like carbon
- 23AU012 Alexander Shikin : Saint-Petersburg state university
Modification of the spin structure of $\text{Ge}(\text{Pb})_x\text{Mn}_{1-x}\text{Bi}_2\text{Te}_4$ at the topological phase transitions
- 23AU013 Turgut Yilmaz : University of Connecticut
Investigating the semimetal phase in TiSe_2
- 23BG001 Chang Liu : Southern University of Science and Technology
Evolution of electronic structure of itinerant-moment magnetic phase transition in the $\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{Ca}_x\text{Co}_2\text{P}_2$ system
- 23BG002 Chang Liu : Southern University of Science and Technology
Probing a new type of SOC-independent, momentum-dependent spin splitting effect in antiferromagnets
- 23BG003 Ken Terao : Graduate School of Science, Osaka University
Dissociation-association dynamics of double helices of the multi-helical polymer xanthan in aqueous solution
- 23BG004 Taichi Okuda : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Verification of chirality induced spin selectivity effect (CISS effect) in self-assembled chiral polymers on gold surface
- 23BG005 Hiroyuki Ikemoto : Department of Physics, University of Toyama
Electronic state of the chalcogen chains encapsuled in carbon nanotubes
- 23BG006 Mark Edmonds : Monash University
Understanding the spin-texture of the topological Dirac and flat bands in ultra-thin Kagome metal Mn_3Sn
- 23BG007 Kouji Miyamoto : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Thickness-dependent electronic structure as the origin of the intrinsic spin Hall effect in $\text{Pt}(001)$ thin film
- 23BG008 Kentaro Fujii : National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology
Observation of nuclear creation process of liquid-liquid phase separation using VUV-CD spectroscopy
- 23BG009 Kentaro Fujii : National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology
Analysis of antibody-drug conjugate in tumor cells utilizing synchrotron soft X-ray spectroscopy
- 23BG010 Ryota Akiyama : Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo
Investigation of the band dispersion in Yb-intercalated graphene
- 23BG011 Shin-ichiro Ideta : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
ARPES study of the electronic structure on underdoped triple-layer cuprate
- 23BG012 Shin-ichiro Ideta : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Role of charge fluctuations on the electronic structure of cuprates observed by ARPES
- 23BG013 Marie Christine Averlant-Petit : Université de Lorraine/CNRS
Structural and conformational studies of peptide-based hydrogels: influence on self-assembling
- 23BG014 Jayita Nayak : Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Search for novel quantum states in axion insulators
- 23BG015 Akio Kimura : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
Origin of superconductivity in Dirac nodal-line materials with P square-net
- 23BG016 Takayoshi Yokoya : Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Science, Okayama University
Synchrotron ARPES of nodal line semimetal candidate $\text{LaTe}_{1+x}\text{Bi}_{1-x}$
- 23BG017 Chaoyu Chen : Southern University of Science and Technology
Investigation of c-f hybridization in Quasi-1D Kondo lattice CeCo_2Ga_8 and CeCo_2Al_8
- 23BG018 Chaoyu Chen : Southern University of Science and Technology
ARPES study on magnetic hourglass candidate CsMn_2F_6
- 23BG019 Chaoyu Chen : Southern University of Science and Technology
Enhanced spin polarization of the surface state protected by non-symmorphic symmetry
- 23BG020 Chaoyu Chen : Southern University of Science and Technology

- Spin-resolved ARPES study on altermagnet candidate $V_{1/3}NbS_2$
- 23BG021 Hitoshi Sato : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Angle resolved photoemission spectroscopy of reference material for new 4f chiral magnet $YbNi_3Al_9$
- 23BG022 Hitoshi Sato : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Angle resolved photoemission spectroscopy of $LuNi_3Al_9$; Comparison of band structure of new 4f chiral magnet $YbNi_3Al_9$
- 23BG023 Hitoshi Sato : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Study on spin texture of new 4f chiral magnet $YbNi_3Al_9$
- 23BG024 Chaoyu Chen : Southern University of Science and Technology
Investigation of electronic structure and possible chiral CDW state in the natural hetero-structure material 6R-TaS₂
- 23BG025 Minoru Iwata : Kyushu Institute of Technology
Design of optical glass for evaluation of UV degradation through on-orbit exposure experiments
- 23BG026 Masahiro Hara : Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University
Effects of Ar ion irradiation on anatase nanoparticles converted from titanium oxide nanosheets
- 23BG027 Akio Kimura : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
Observation of nodal-links and spin-polarized surface states in Heusler-type ferromagnets
- 23BG028 Akio Kimura : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
Maximization of anomalous Nernst effect in Fe based ferromagnetic alloy films
- 23BG029 Jens Ruediger Stelhorn : Department of Physics, Nagoya University
Structure of Tsai-type M-In-Yb quasicrystals by low-energy X-ray spectroscopy
- 23BG030 Jayita Nayak: Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Band structure engineering of magnetic Weyl semimetals
- 23BG031 Jimin Kim : Max Planck Pohang University of Science and Technology
Investigating charge density wave and Kondo lattice behavior of cerium tellurides
- 23BG032 Jimin Kim : Max Planck Pohang University of Science and Technology
Investigating pseudogap and broken time-reversal symmetry phases from the momentum-resolved electronic structures of kagome metal, ScV_6Sn_6
- 23BG033 Shin-ichi Wada : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
Electronic relaxation dynamics depending on molecular conductivity probed by electron spectroscopy II
- 23BG034 Shin-ichi Wada : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
Soft X-ray spectroscopy of phospholipid membranes supported by self-assembled monolayers
- 23BG035 Shin-ichi Wada : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
X-ray absorption spectroscopy of functional organic molecules assembled metal nanoparticles made by laser ablation
- 23BG036 Dmitry Estyunin : Saint-Petersburg State University
Topological phase transition in the $MnBi_2Te_4$ -based compounds
- 23BG037 Shinya Hosokawa : Institute of Industrial Nanomaterials, Kumamoto University
Conduction-band electronic states of Dy-TM metallic glasses having thermal rejuvenation effect
- 23BG038 Shinya Hosokawa : Institute of Industrial Nanomaterials, Kumamoto University
Valence-band electronic states of Dy-TM metallic glasses having thermal rejuvenation effect
- 23BG039 Shilong Wu : Songshan Lake Materials Laboratory
Unveiling the Dresselhaus-type spin texture by SR-based spin-ARPES
- 23BG040 Masashi Arita : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
ARPES study of strain-induced phase transitions in $Pb_{1-x}Sn_xTe$ and $1T-TaS_2$
- 23BG041 Baojie Feng : Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences

- ARPES study of the phase transition in a low-dimensional telluride
- 23BG042 Baojie Feng : Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
ARPES study of the band structure of iron nitride
- 23BU001 Subham Majumdar : Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science
X-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD) study in Fe doped Cr₂GeC
- 23BU002 Yasuyuki Maki : Faculty of Science, Kyushu University
Effect of sugar and sugar alcohol on the thermal stability of protein
- 23BU003 Alexander Shikin : Saint-Petersburg State University
Modification of electronic and spin structure of Ge(Pb)_xMn_{1-x}Bi₂Te₄ at the topological phase transitions
- 23BU004 Masahiro Kobayashi : National Institute for Fusion Science
Circular dichroism analysis of optical activity in amino acid specimen by polarized quantum beam irradiation
- 23BU005 Tetsuji Sekitani : Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Hiroshima University
NEXAFS study of polymer/fullerene blend films
- 23BU006 Kazuki Sumida : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Spin-polarized electronic structure of carrier-tuned topological insulators
- 23BU007 Koichiro Yaji : National Institute for Materials Science
Electronic structure of multilayer graphene on ferromagnetic substrate
- 23BU008 Daniel S Dessau: University of Colorado Boulder
Laser spin-ARPES of topological materials
- 23BU009 Koichi Matsuo : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Conformation change of Magainin2 depending on the spontaneous curvature of membrane
- 23BU010 Shin-ichiro Ideta : Hiroshima Synchrotron Radiation Center, Hiroshima University
Role of charge fluctuations on the electronic structure of cuprates observed by IPES