

11:20 – 11:55 Byong-Guk Park (Department of Materials Science and Engineering, KAIST)

「Material engineering for field-free spin-orbit torque switching」

標題：Heavy fermion oxide LiV_2O_4 with new surprise in store

日時：2025年11月17日(月) 午後3時～午後4時

場所：物性研究所本館6階 大講義室 (A632)

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所属：Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research

要旨：

The mixed-valent spinel LiV_2O_4 is known as the first oxide heavy-fermion system. There is a consensus that a subtle interplay of charge, spin, and orbital degrees of freedom of correlated electrons plays a crucial role in the enhancement of quasi-particle mass, but the specific mechanism has remained yet elusive. A charge-ordering (CO) instability of V^{3+} and V^{4+} ions that is geometrically frustrated by the V pyrochlore sublattice from forming a long-range CO down to $T = 0$ K has been proposed as a prime candidate for the mechanism. In this talk, we uncover the hidden CO instability by applying epitaxial strain on single-crystalline LiV_2O_4 thin films. We find a crystallization of heavy fermions in a LiV_2O_4 film on MgO , where a charge-ordered insulator comprising of a stack of V^{3+} and V^{4+} layers along [001], the historical Verwey-type ordering, is stabilized by the in-plane tensile and out-of-plane compressive strains from the substrate. Our discovery of the [001] Verwey type CO, together with previous realizations of a distinct [111] CO, evidence the proximity of the heavy-fermion state to degenerate CO states mirroring the geometrical frustration of the V pyrochlore lattice. Our recent transport (Hall coefficient R_H and thermopower S) studies on LiV_2O_4 single crystals at low temperatures below 2 K points to a semimetallic ground state with almost equally heavy electrons and holes, which gives us a hint for the origin of CO instability in k -space. We note that the semimetallic ground state is the natural consequence of the even number of electrons in the primitive cell containing 4 V ions ($1.5 \times 4 = 6$). The volume of semimetallic Fermi surfaces inferred from transport appears to respect roughly the LDA semimetallic Fermi surfaces, though the mass is two orders of magnitude enhanced. We argue that the coupling of itinerant electrons in the almost half-filled two e_g bands and almost Mott-localized electrons in the narrow a_{1g} bands below the Fermi level gives rise to the formation of extremely narrow semimetallic quasi-particle bands at the Fermi level. LiV_2O_4 may bridge the $4f$ Kondo heavy fermion physics with the correlated d -electron physics.

U. Niemann, Y.-M. Wu, R. Oka, D. Hirai, Y. Wang, Y. E. Suvolcuca, M. Kim, P. A. van Aken, and H. Takagi, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 120, e2215722120 (2023).