
Internal Fields in Diamond and Related Materials

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to develop the sensitive diagnostic method of Time Differential Perturbed Angular Distributions (TDPAD) using implanted fluorine (^{19}F) as the nuclear probe, and apply it to defect and impurity studies of diamond crystals, by detecting the internal electric field gradient (efg) at the impurity sites. Defects and impurities can substantially determine and modify the electrical and physical properties of materials. Such studies lead to theoretical advances and new materials. Diamond presents a unique system in which to perform these studies. The related Muon Spin Rotation (MSR) technique, which detects the local magnetic field at the muon residence sites, was also used to study the behaviour of the implanted hydrogen-like impurity.

The ^{19}F is recoil implanted into the diamond by a 4 MeV pulsed proton beam from an accelerator. The parameters describing the local efg (magnitude, asymmetry, distribution and orientation) at the residence sites of the implanted ^{19}F probes are measured by detecting the perturbed γ -ray angular distribution from the ^{19}F de-excitation. The efg reflects the local microscopic structure and dynamic processes. Measurements were performed as a function of crystallographic orientation, diamond type (naturally present defects and impurities) and temperature. Studies were also made of other carbon allotropes.

The accelerator pulsing facilities were improved by the stabilization of the chopper and the development of a buncher. Theoretical model functions were developed for the analysis of data for non-axially symmetric efg's in cubic single crystals.

Essentially two different residence sites for ^{19}F probe ions in diamond and its allotropes were found. The first (principal) site has a quadrupole coupling frequency of ≈ 60 MHz, and is well defined with near axial symmetry for the efg. The second (diffuse) site, has a lower coupling frequency, also near axial symmetry but a large spread in the efg. The efg is oriented along a $\langle 111 \rangle$ crystallographic direction in both sites. The measured degree of polycrystallinity of the natural diamond lattice corresponded to certain defects and impurities in diamond.

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The efg data, in particular its temperature dependence, correlated well with the site assignments and theoretical predictions of cluster model molecular orbital calculations. The two sites for the ^{19}F impurity are identified as the tetrahedral interstitial and substitutional sites. The temperature behaviour of the substitutional site led to a charge transfer model for the dynamics of ^{19}F at this site. Host-impurity interactions were shown to be dominated by chemical effects. The temperature dependence of the efg supports the charge carrier governed dependence models for semiconductors. The MSR measurements pinned down the signs of the anisotropic hyperfine coupling constants describing a stable form, Mu^* , of the muonic atom in diamond. This led to dynamical and structural insights into the transition yielding Mu^* .

The ^{19}F TDPAD method has matured during the course of this research into a sensitive diagnostic technique, and a consistent picture of the ^{19}F impurity in diamond is emerging. The results are of importance to the general understanding of defects and impurities, especially in diamond, and interesting possibilities for future research are suggested.

I declare that this dissertation is my own, unaided work. It is being submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of the Witwatersrand. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other university.

S. H. J. U.

16 day of March, 1988.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER 1. Introduction

1.1. Background

1.2. Objectives

1.3. Organization of the Thesis

1.4. Summary

CHAPTER 2. Research methods (MATERIALS)

This thesis is dedicated to my wife, Geraldine.

2.1. Materials

2.2. Preparation

2.3. Characterization

2.4. Results and Discussion

2.5. Conclusions

2.6. References

2.7. Appendix

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	1
List of Tables	5
List of Figures	6
CHAPTER 1. Introduction	12
Motivation	13
General	13
Defects and impurities in Diamond	13
Plan of Thesis	15
CHAPTER 2. Research methods (TDPAD)	17
Introduction	18
The TDPAD method	18
The ^{19}F probe ion	20
The diamond host lattice	20
Recoil implantation	21
Implanted ion doses and ranges	21
TDPAD time window	26
Radiation damage environment	26
Summary	32

CHAPTER 3. Theoretical (TDPAD)	33
Perturbed Angular Distributions	34
Angular correlations	34
¹⁹ F Angular distribution	36
Adding the perturbation	38
The Electric Field Gradient	40
Single Crystal Formalism	42
Explicitly for $I = \frac{5}{2}^+$	44
Simulations	44
CHAPTER 4. Experimental (TDPAD)	47
Introduction	48
Data generation	49
Tandem Van der Graaff Accelerator	49
Beam Pulser	50
Halo Start Detector	52
Data capture	53
Detectors	53
Electronics	54
Targets	56
Preparation	56
Characterization	58
Control	59
Data reduction and Analysis	60
Primary data reduction	60
Extraction of the efg parameters	64

CHAPTER 5. Results and Conclusions (TDPAD)	65
Introduction	66
Residence Sites	68
Symmetry Property of Perturbation	86
Diamond Type Dependence	94
Cluster Calculations	109
Temperature Dependence	118
Other Carbon Allotropes	134
 CHAPTER 6. MSR work in diamond	 145
Introduction	146
Muonium and Hydrogen	146
Experimental	146
Ion-solid considerations	148
Theoretical	149
Results and Conclusions	150
Previous experiments	150
This work	153
Summary	155
 CHAPTER 7. Summary	 156
Summary	157
Previous PAC work	157
Development of ^{10}F as a hyperfine probe	157
^{10}F TDPAD studies in diamond	158
MSR work in diamond	161
Concluding remarks	162

CHAPTER 5. Results and Conclusions (TDPAD)	65
Introduction	66
Residence Sites	68
Symmetry Property of Perturbation	86
Diamond Type Dependence	94
Cluster Calculations	109
Temperature Dependence	118
Other Carbon Allotropes	134
 CHAPTER 6. MSR work in diamond	 145
Introduction	146
Muonium and Hydrogen	146
Experimental	146
Ion-solid considerations	148
Theoretical	149
Results and Conclusions	150
Previous experiments	150
This work	153
Summary	155
 CHAPTER 7. Summary	 156
Summary	157
Previous PAC work	157
Development of ^{19}F as a hyperfine probe	157
^{19}F TDPAD studies in diamond	158
MSR work in diamond	161
Concluding remarks	162

APPENDICES.	164
Analysis Programme Description	165
Electron-Positron Scattering	168
MSR Publications	173
Publications and Conference proceedings	198
REFERENCES.	207

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List of Tables

Table 2.1	25
Dose and Range data for p^+ , ^{10}F and Ca in Diamond.	
Table 4.1	57
Samples studied with ^{10}F recoil implantation TDPAD.	
Paper 1, Table 1.	82
Evaluated parameters.	
Paper 3, Table 1.	101
Evaluated parameters.	
Paper 3, Table 2(a).	104
Bulk values of the light volatiles, oxygen and hydrogen. in diamond.	
Paper 3, Table 2(b).	105
Bulk nitrogen concentration in diamonds.	
Paper 4, Table 1.	111
Experimentally determined efg data for ^{10}F in Diamond.	
Paper 5, Table 1.	126
Temperature dependent efg data for ^{10}F in Diamond IIa.	
Paper 6, Table 1.	139
Efg data for ^{10}F in various carbon allotropes.	
Table 6.i	146
Comparison of properties of Muonium and Hydrogen.	

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